



KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

INVINCIBLE™

15



image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE

TM

ROBERT KIRKMAN

WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY

PENCILER & INKER

BILL CRABTREE

COLORIST

RUS WOOTON

LETTERER

COVER BY CORY WALKER & BILL CRABTREE

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



IMAGE COMICS, INC.

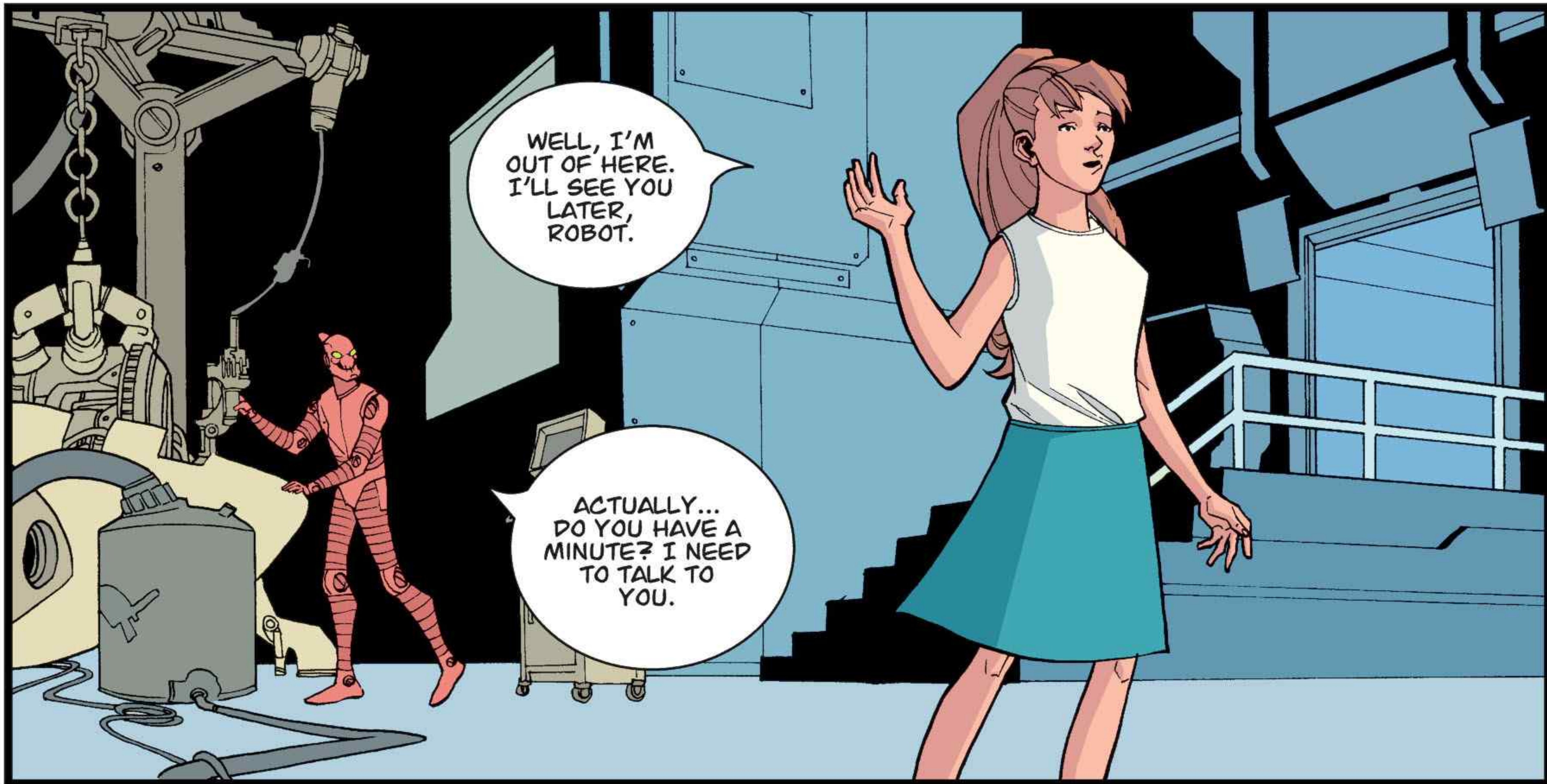
Erik Larsen - Publisher
Todd McFarlane - President
Marc Silvestri - CEO
Jim Valentino - Vice-President

Eric Stephenson - Executive Director
Brett Evans - Production Manager
Cindie Espinoza - Controller
B. Clay Moore - PR & Marketing Coordinator
Allen Hui - Web Developer
Jon Malin - Production Assistant
Tim Hegarty - Booktrade/International Rights

www.imagecomics.com

INVINCIBLE Vol. 1 #15, July, 2004. First Printing. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1071 N. Batavia St. Suite A, Orange, CA 92867. Image and its logos are ® and © 2004 Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Invincible is ™ and © 2004 Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker. All rights reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. No portion of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the expressed written permission of the copyright holder except for artwork used for review purposes. Printed in USA.





WELL, I'M OUT OF HERE. I'LL SEE YOU LATER, ROBOT.

ACTUALLY... DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE? I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.



SURE, BOSS. I'VE GOT A LITTLE TIME. WHAT'S UP?

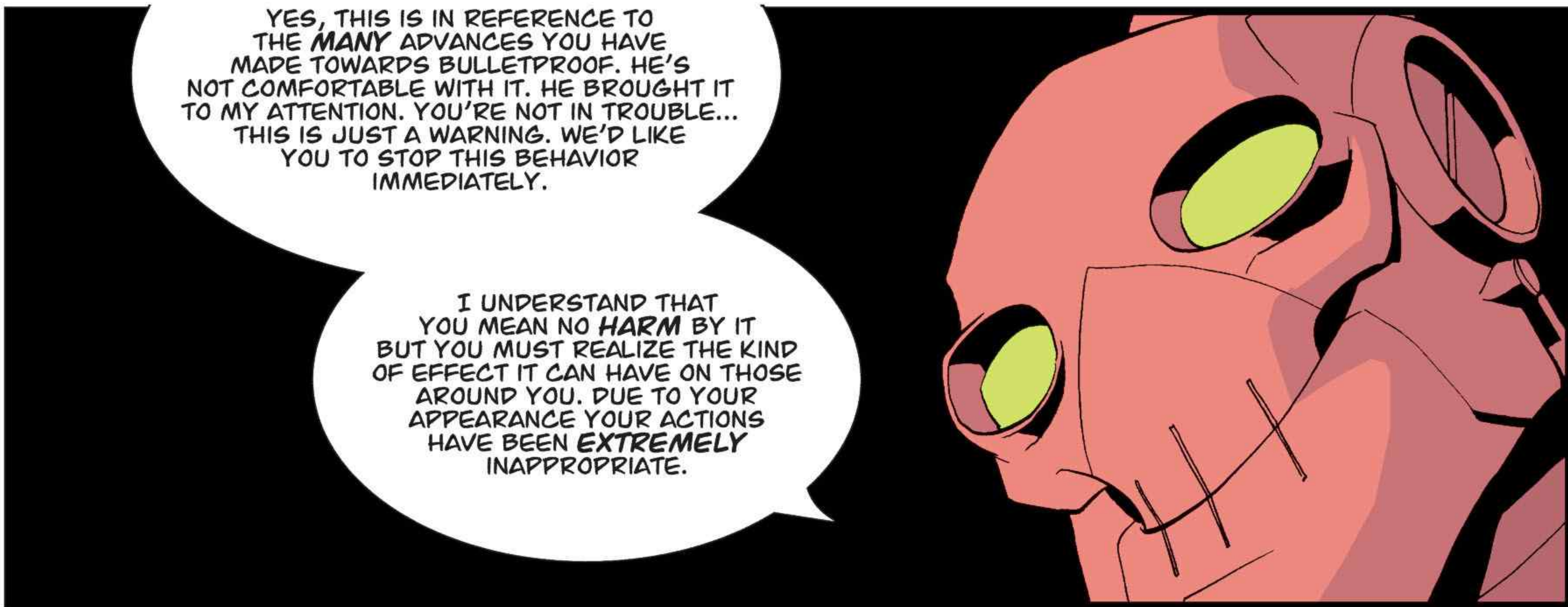


WE NEED TO DISCUSS YOUR BEHAVIOR. YOU ARE AN **EXCELLENT** MEMBER OF OUR TEAM. I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THIS IS ABOUT YOUR PERFORMANCE, BECAUSE IT HAS **NOTHING** TO DO WITH IT. YOU ARE A VERY PRODUCTIVE AND VALUED MEMBER OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

THE PROBLEM I HAVE WITH YOU IS YOUR CONDUCT DURING OUR DOWNTIMES.



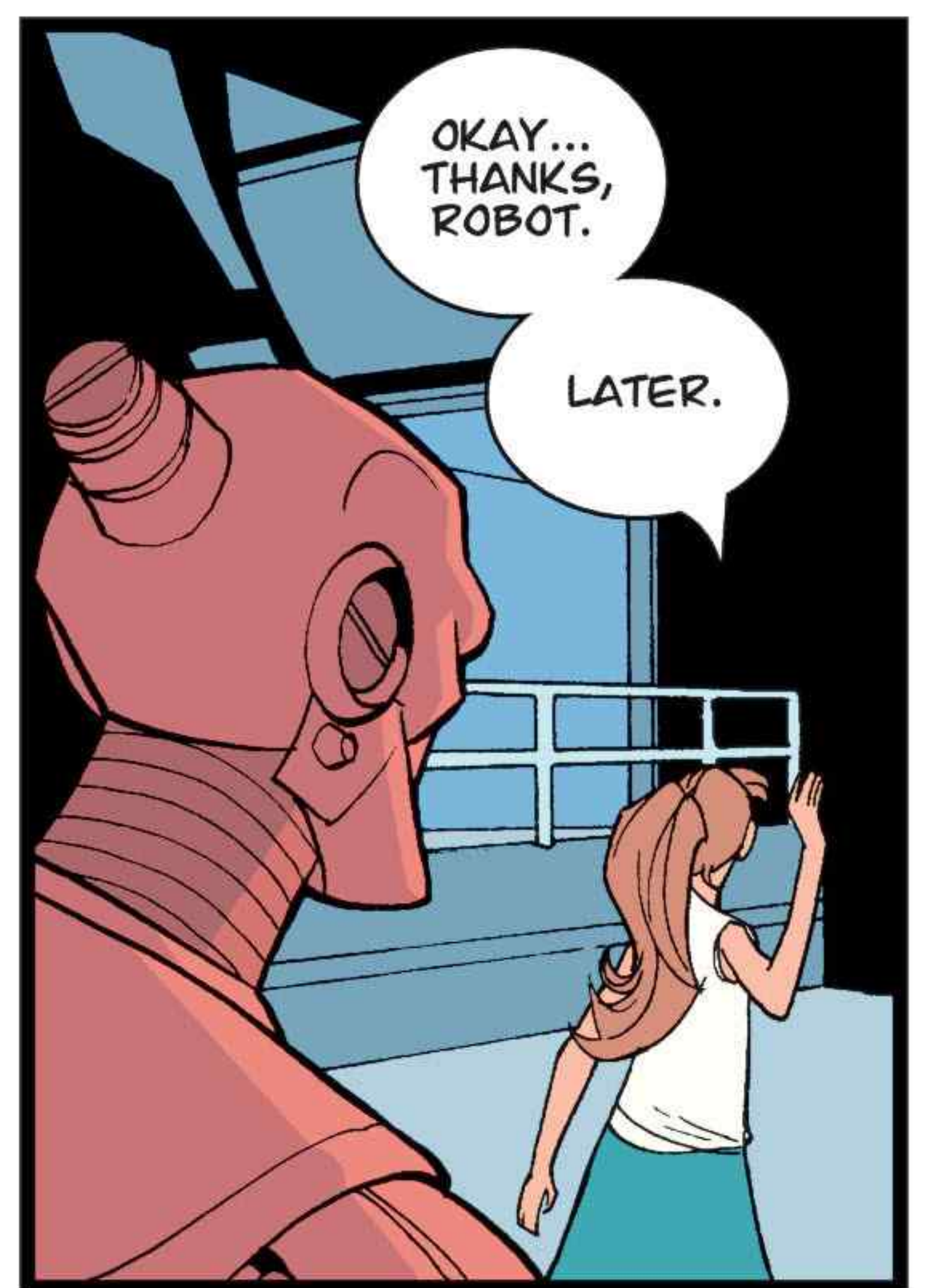
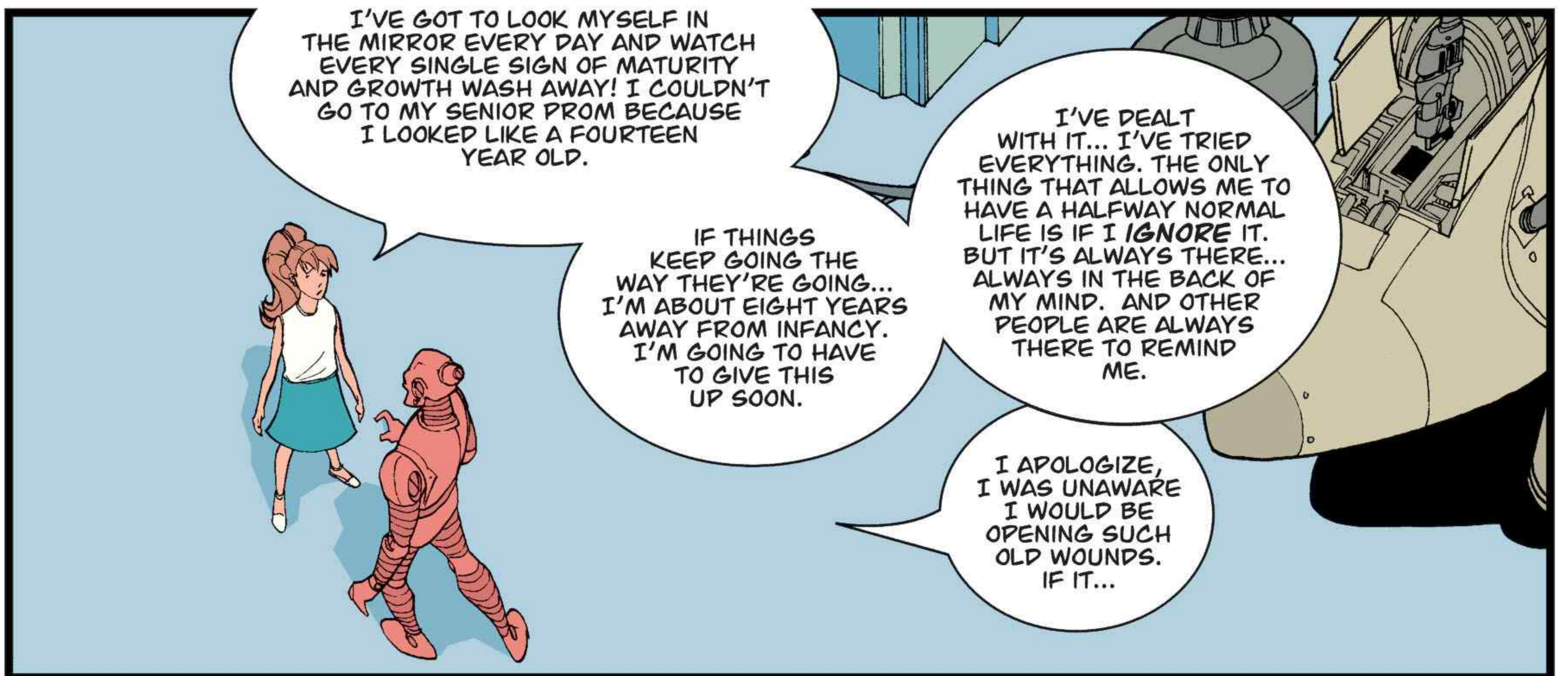
IS THIS ABOUT THAT **BULLETPROOF** JERK?

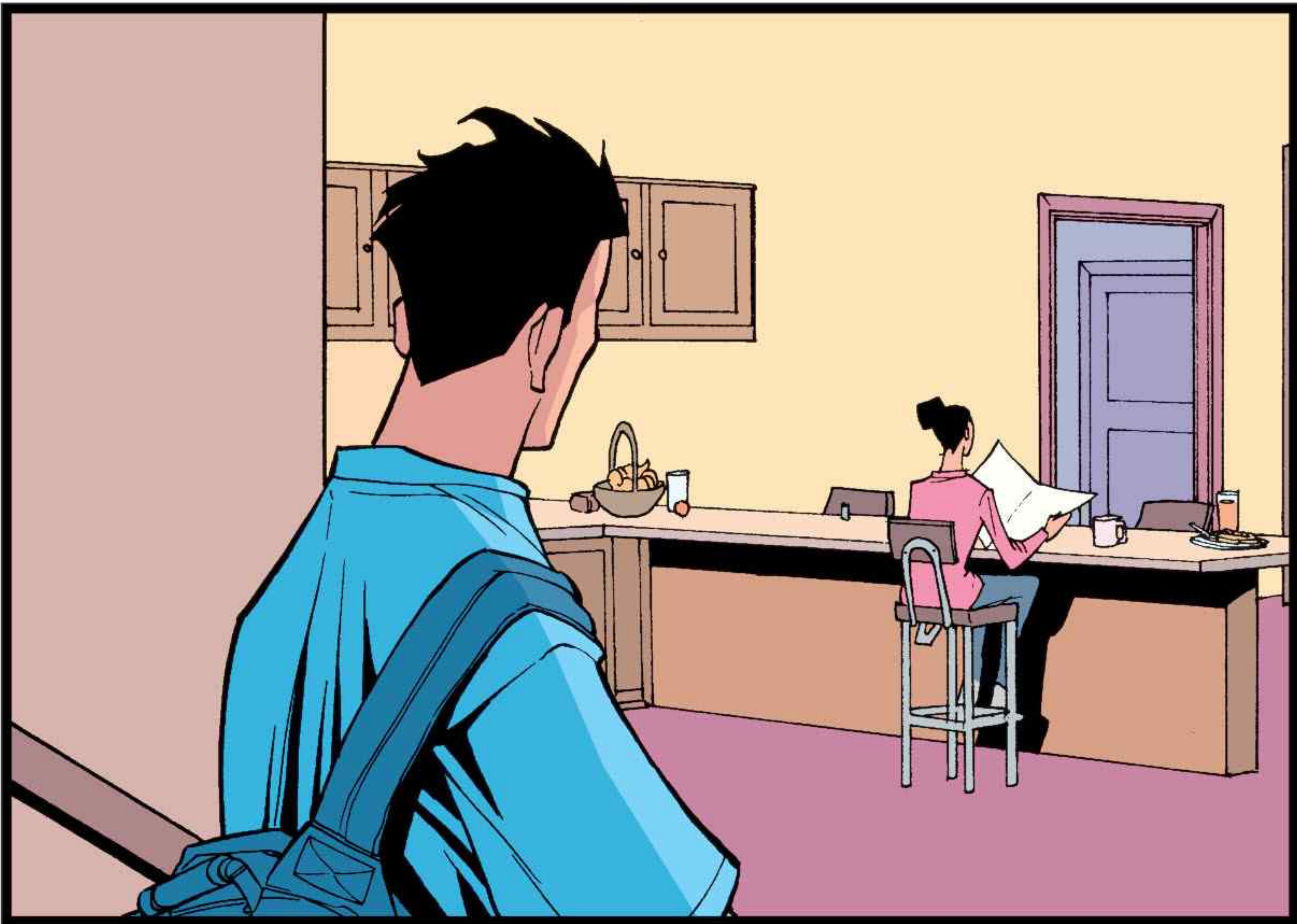


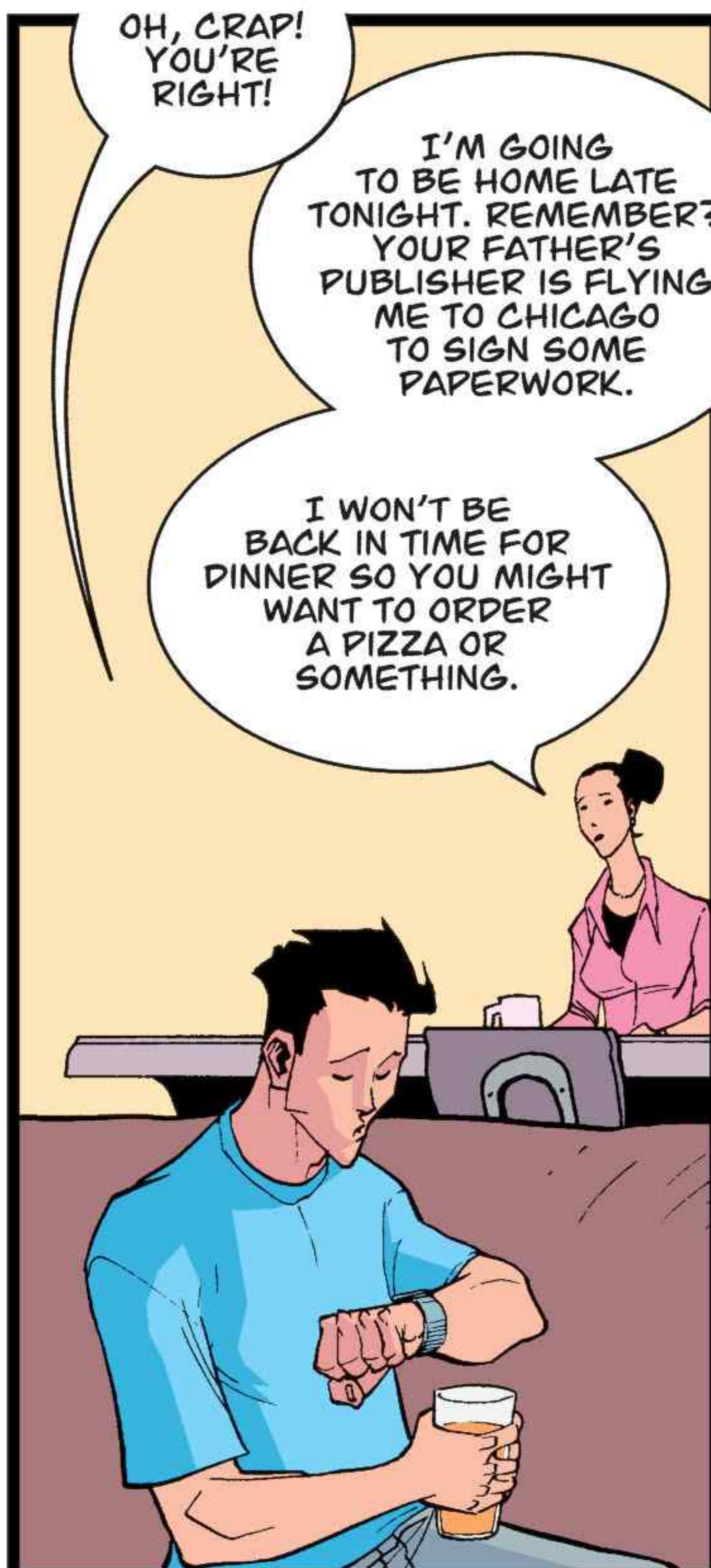
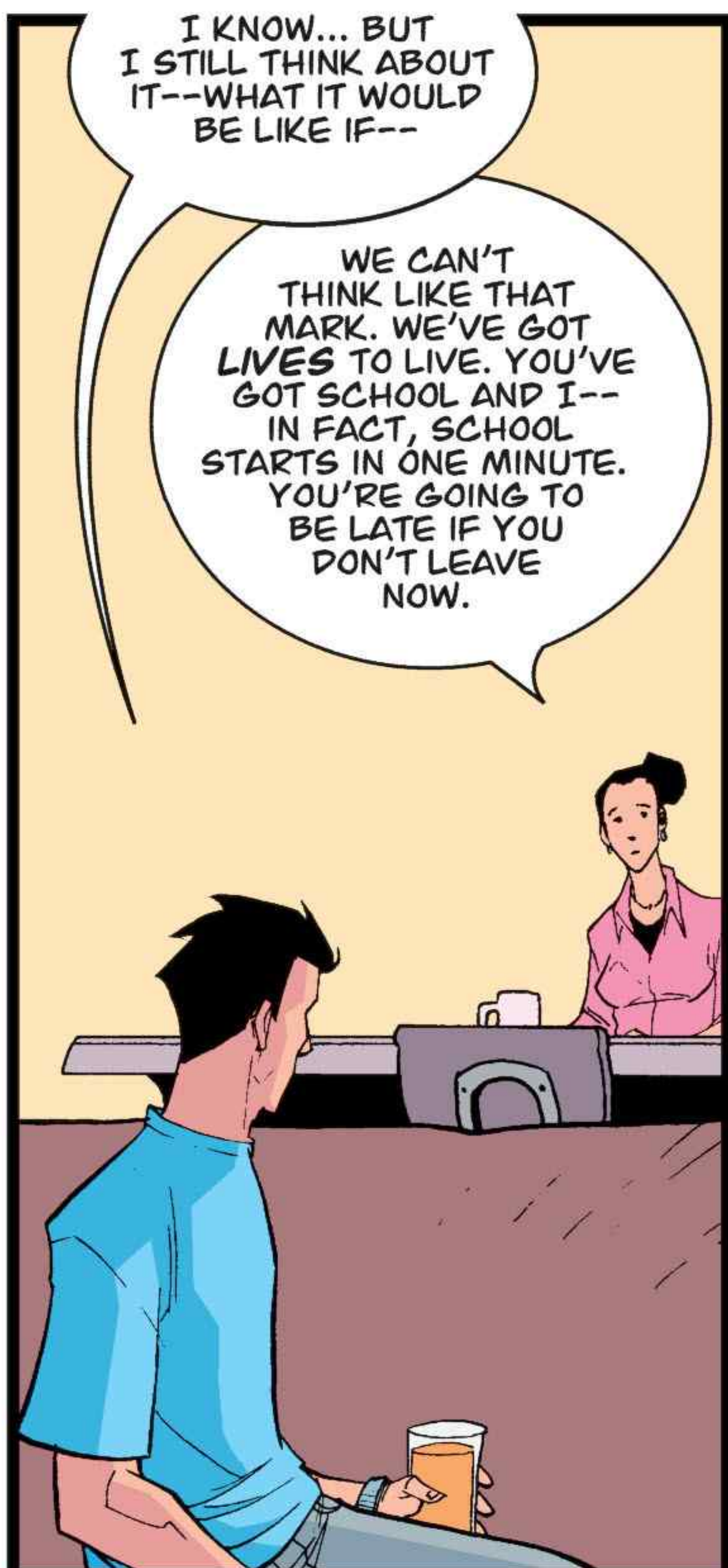
YES, THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE **MANY** ADVANCES YOU HAVE MADE TOWARDS BULLETPROOF. HE'S NOT COMFORTABLE WITH IT. HE BROUGHT IT TO MY ATTENTION. YOU'RE NOT IN TROUBLE... THIS IS JUST A WARNING. WE'D LIKE YOU TO STOP THIS BEHAVIOR IMMEDIATELY.

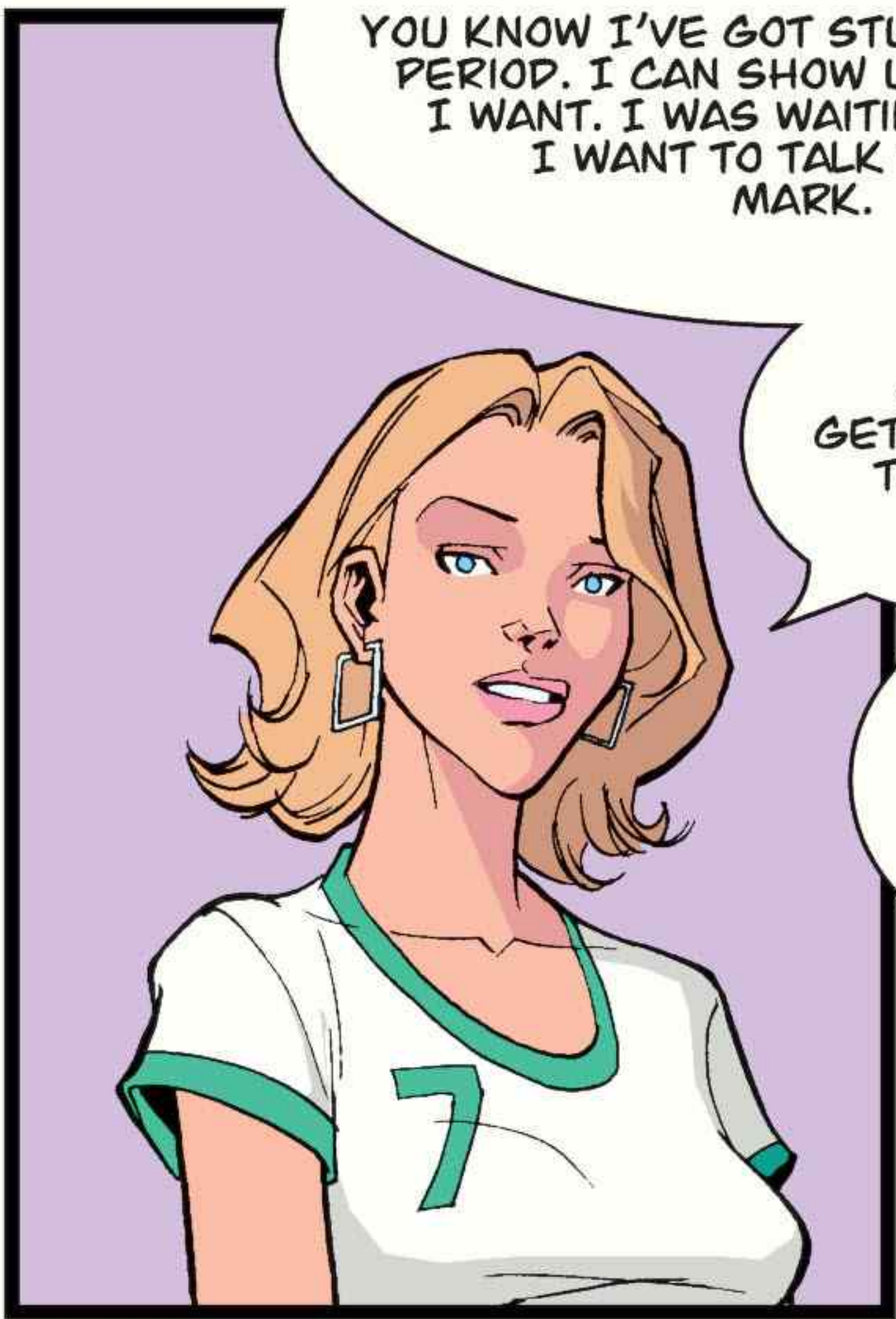
I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MEAN NO **HARM** BY IT BUT YOU MUST REALIZE THE KIND OF EFFECT IT CAN HAVE ON THOSE AROUND YOU. DUE TO YOUR APPEARANCE YOUR ACTIONS HAVE BEEN **EXTREMELY** INAPPROPRIATE.

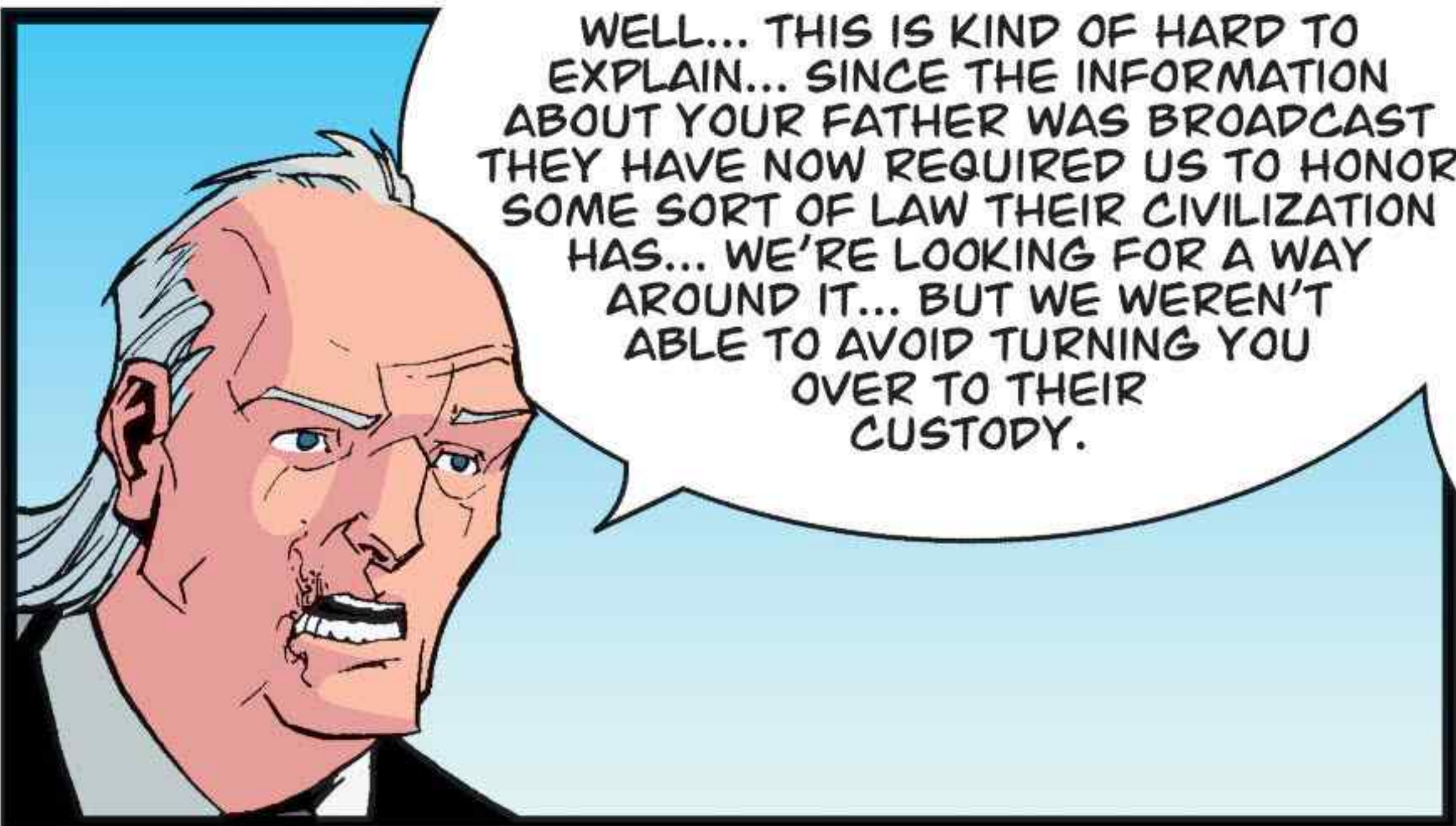
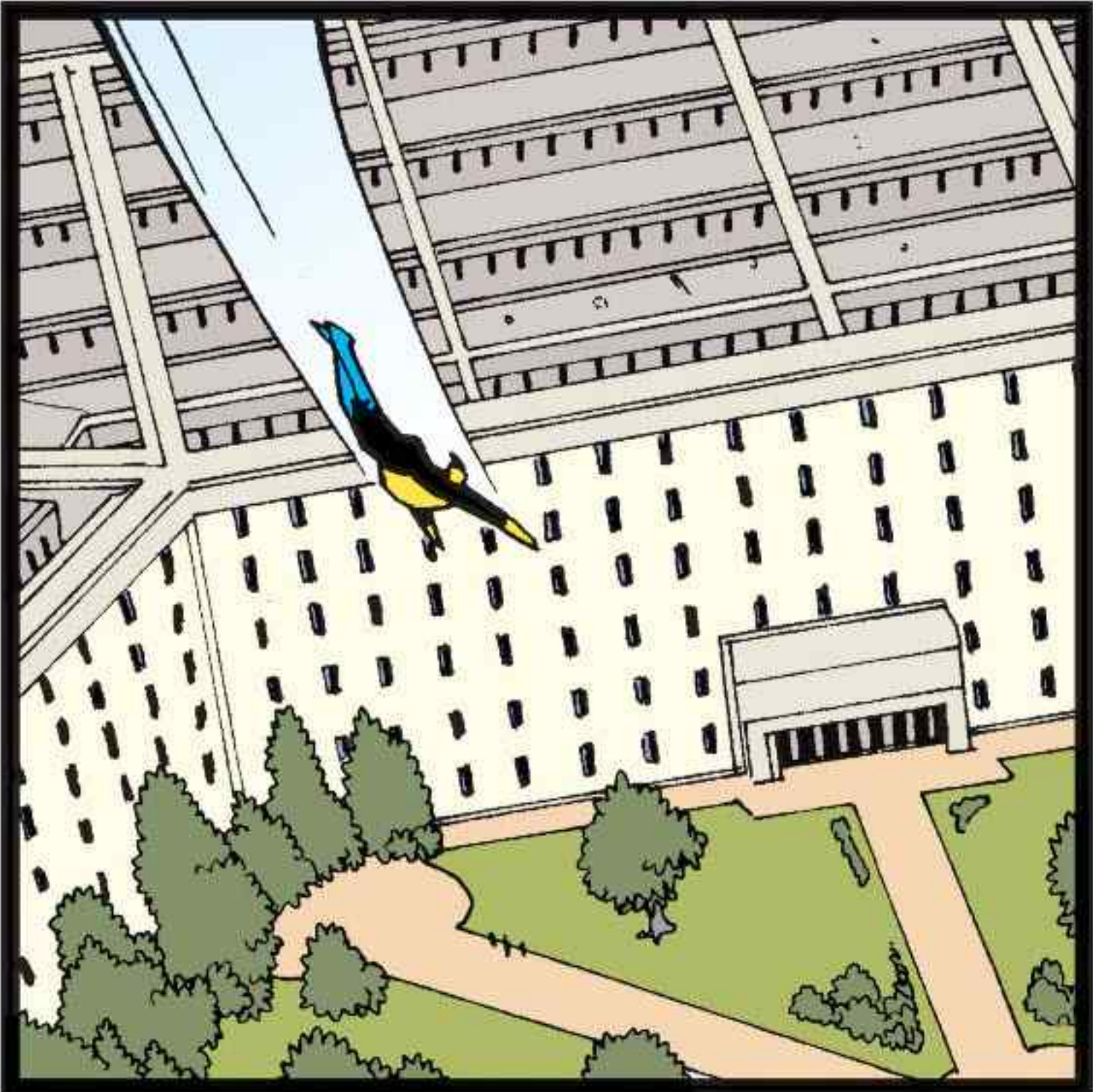
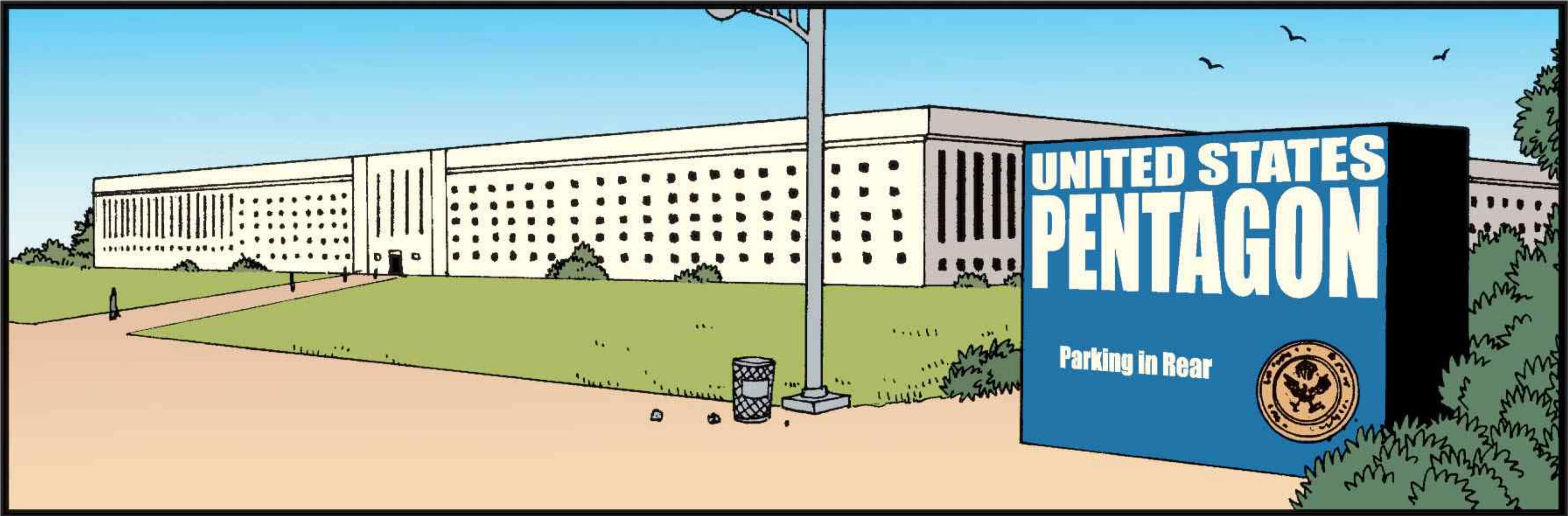


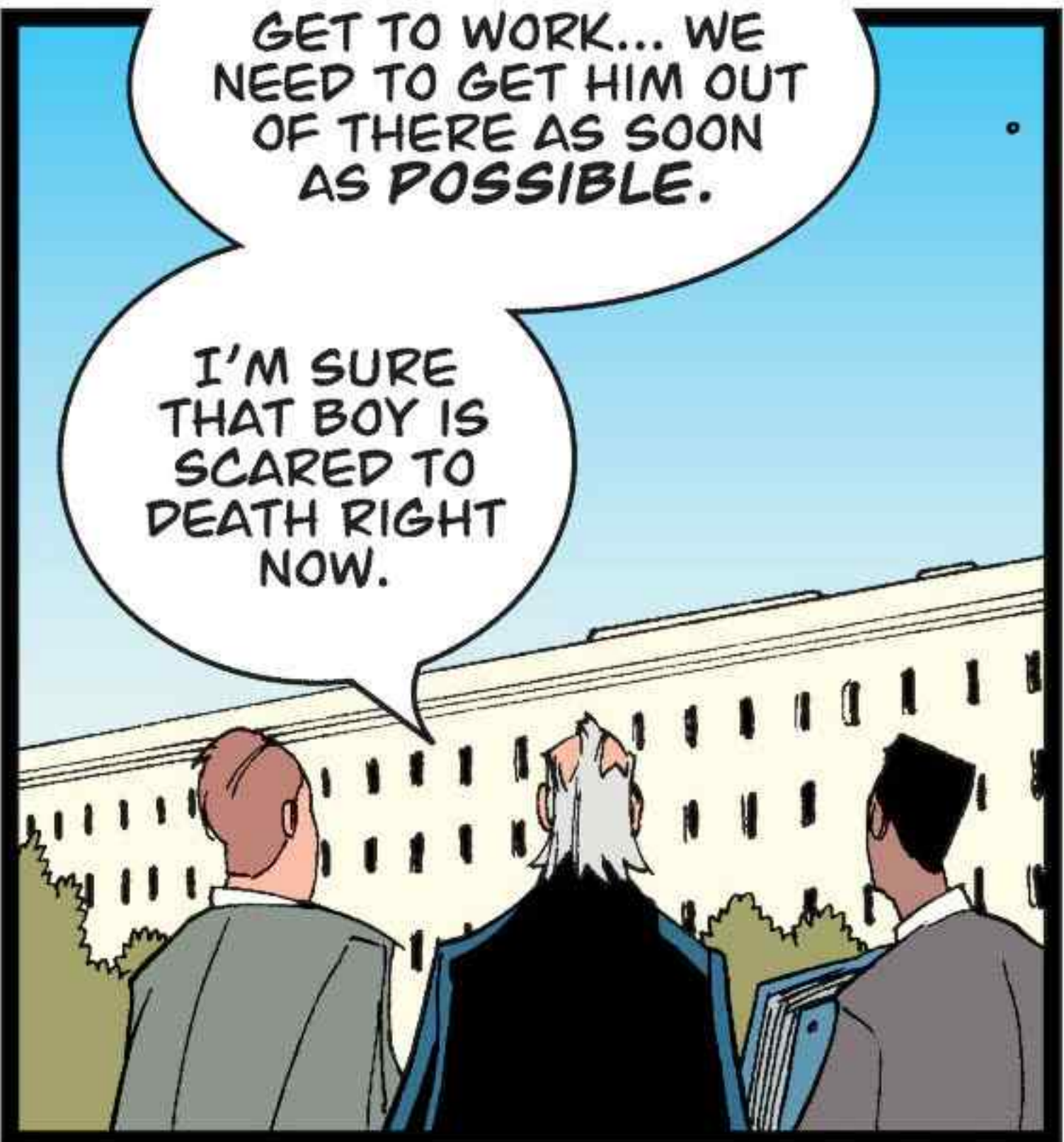
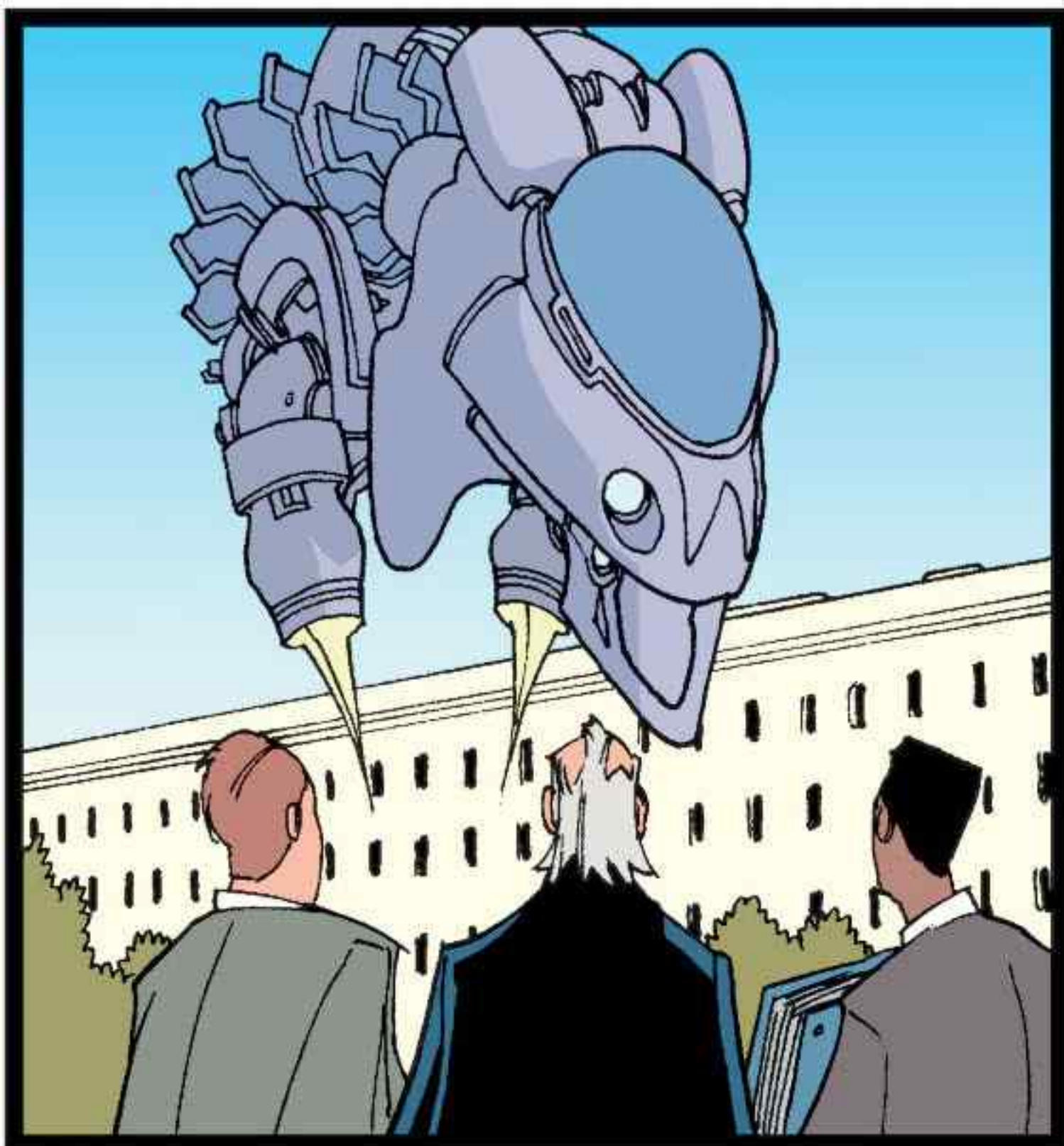


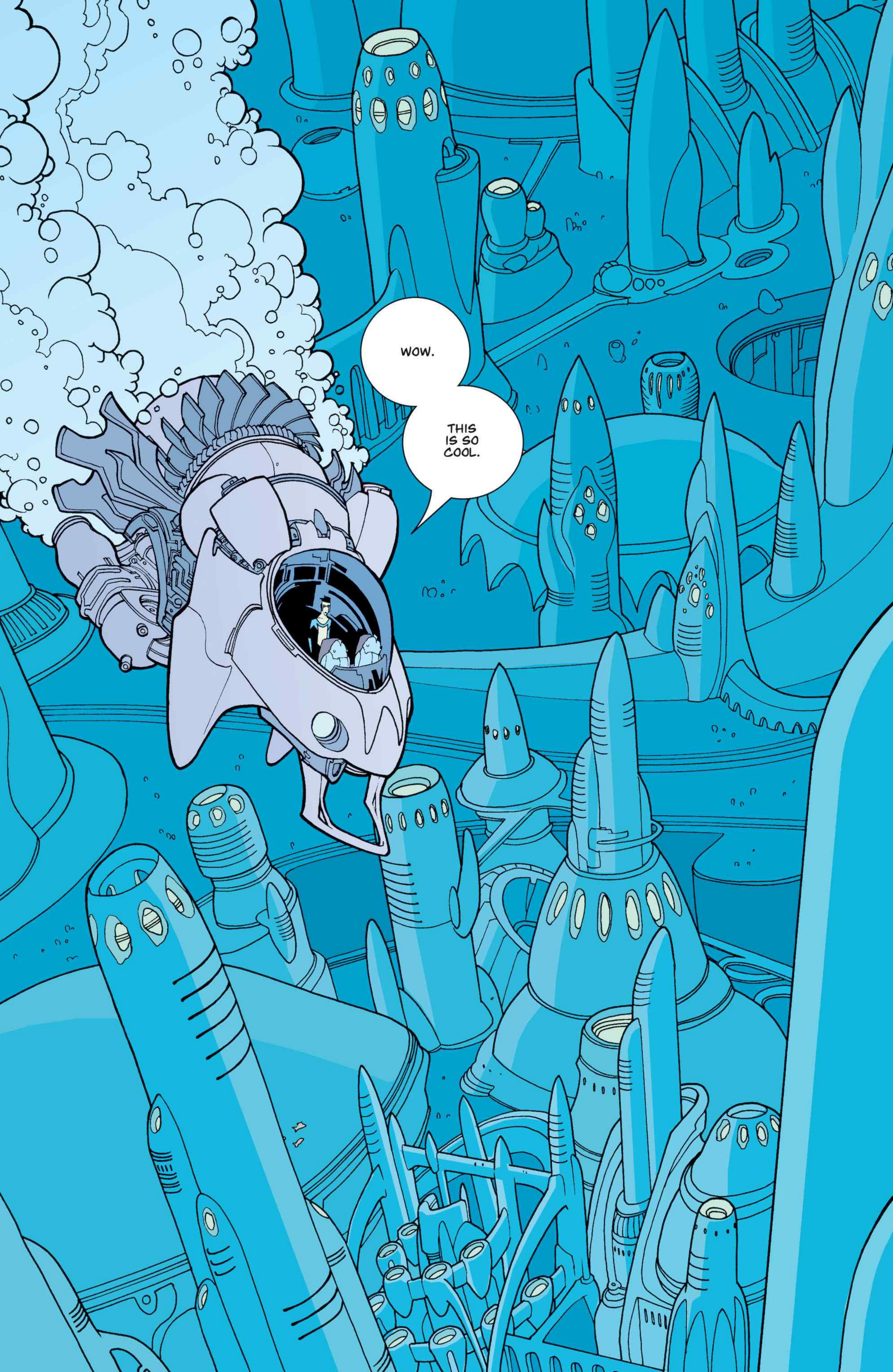






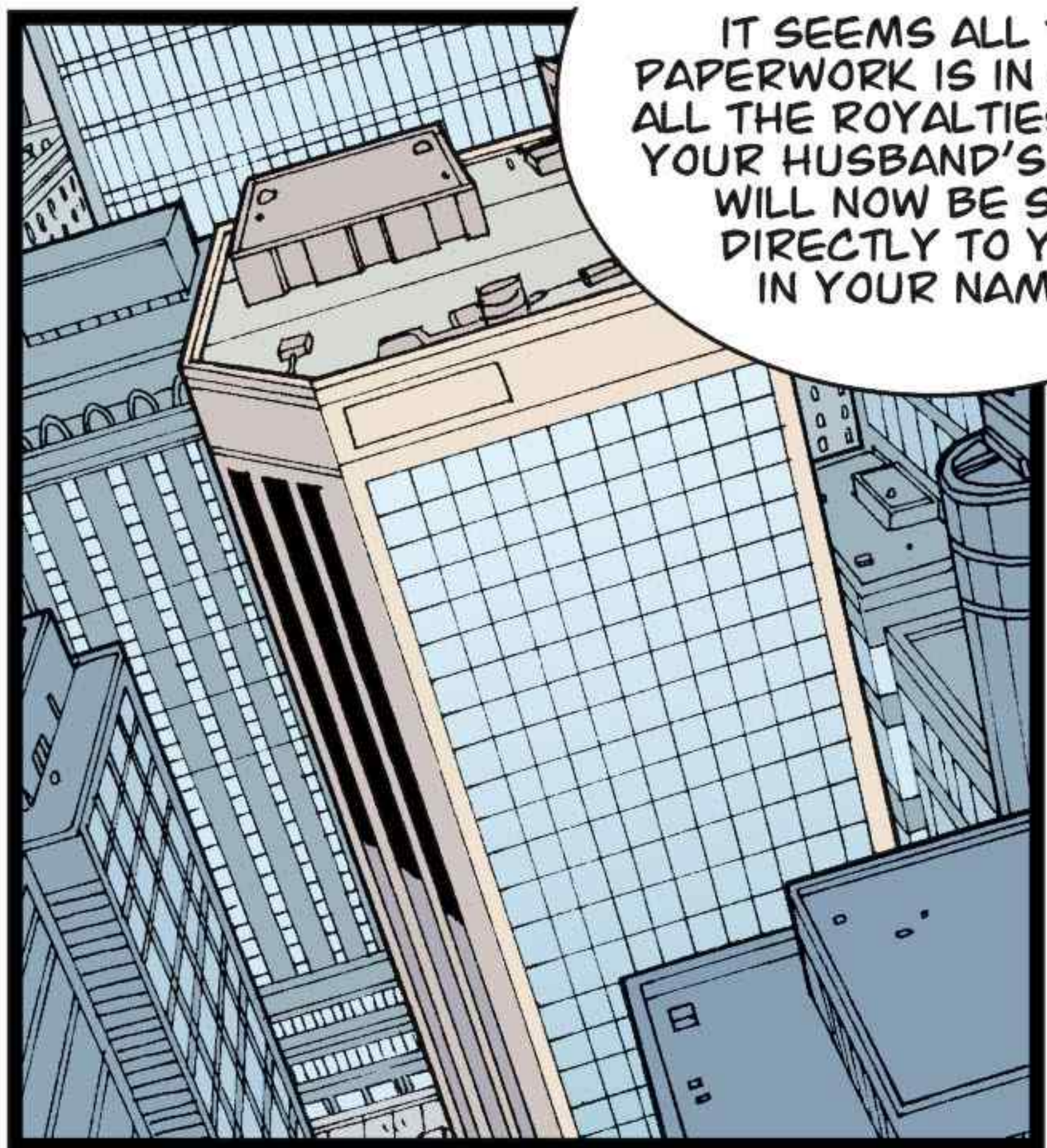






WOW.

THIS
IS SO
COOL.



IT SEEMS ALL THE PAPERWORK IS IN ORDER. ALL THE ROYALTIES FROM YOUR HUSBAND'S BOOKS WILL NOW BE SENT DIRECTLY TO YOU, IN YOUR NAME.



YOU SHOULD HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL CHECK COMING YOUR WAY SOON. ALL HIS BOOKS HAVE BEEN SELLING LIKE CRAZY SINCE HE PASSED ON.

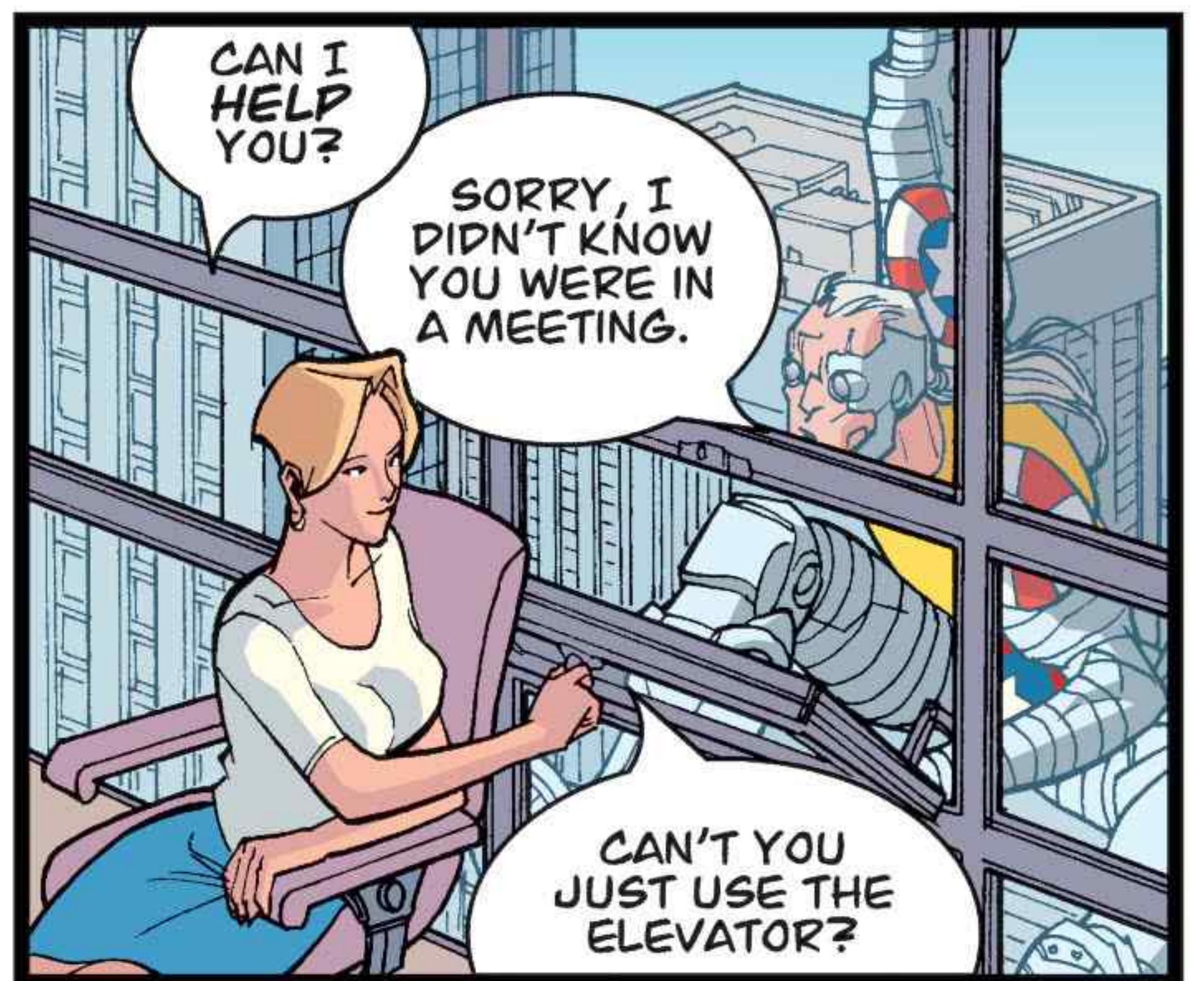
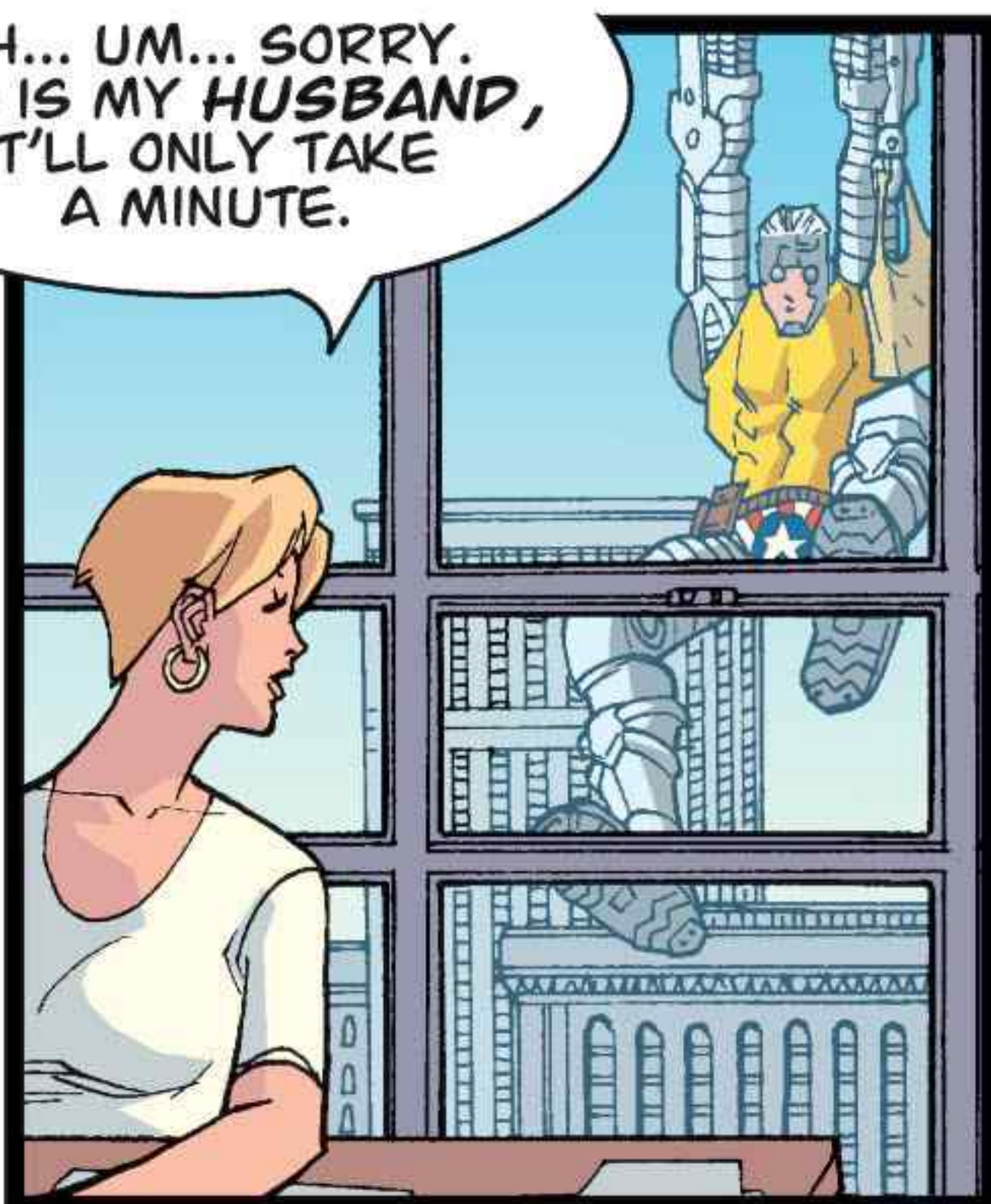
I'M, UH-- TERRIBLY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS.

THANK YOU. I'M JUST GLAD THIS IS ALL TAKEN CARE OF. I--



UM... THERE'S A ROBOT--

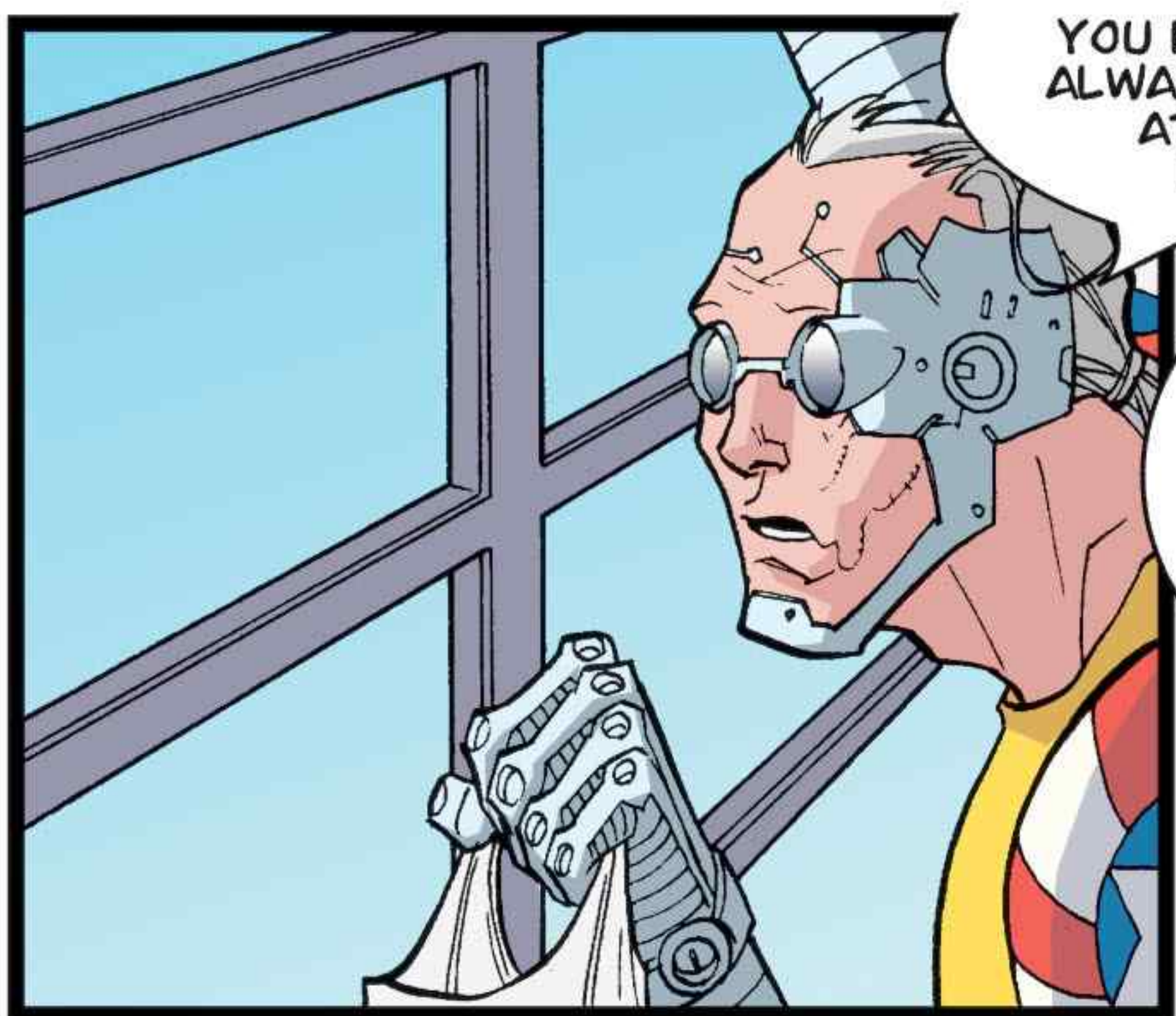
OH... UM... SORRY. THIS IS MY HUSBAND, IT'LL ONLY TAKE A MINUTE.



CAN I HELP YOU?

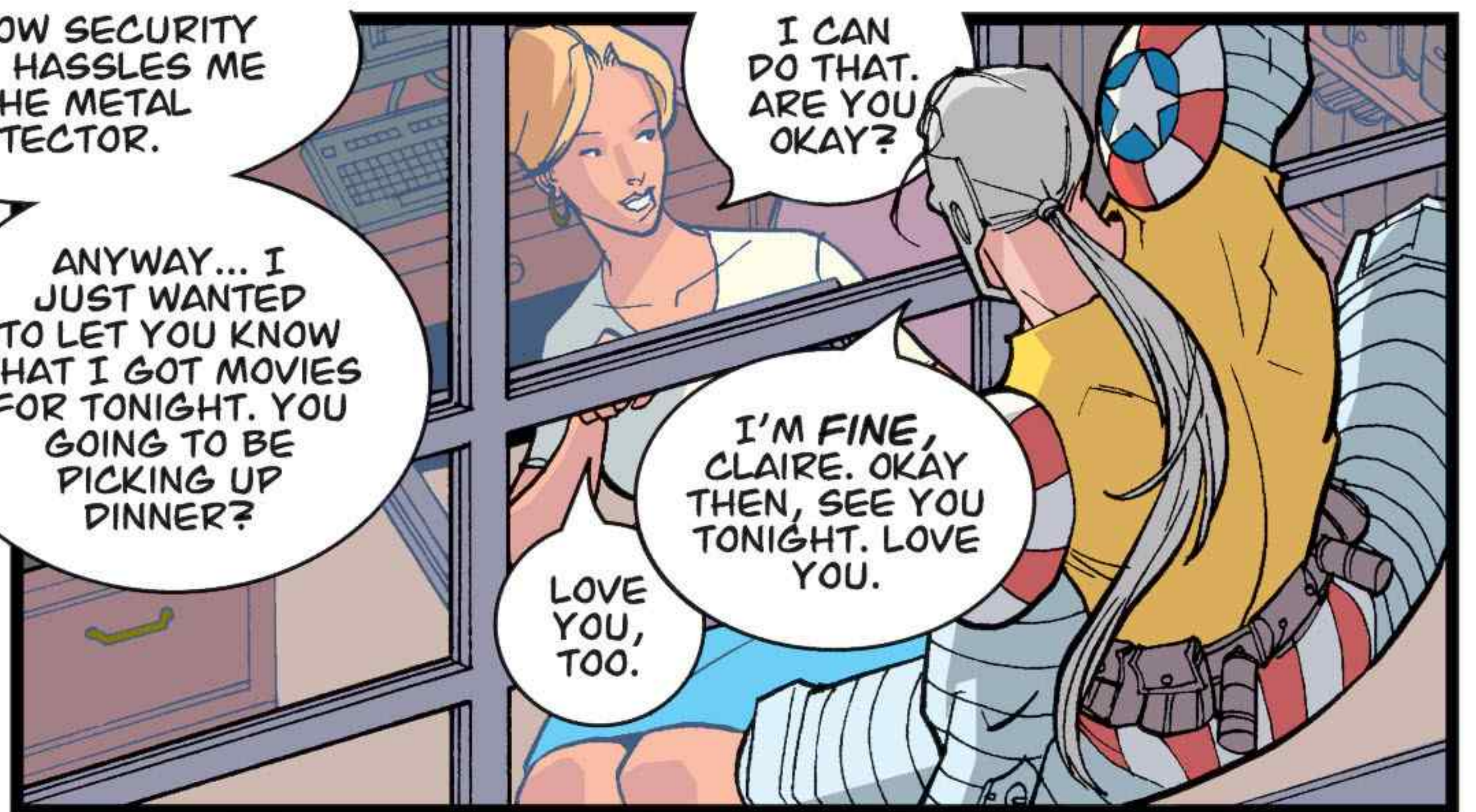
SORRY, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE IN A MEETING.

CAN'T YOU JUST USE THE ELEVATOR?



YOU KNOW SECURITY ALWAYS HASSLES ME AT THE METAL DETECTOR.

ANYWAY... I JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I GOT MOVIES FOR TONIGHT. YOU GOING TO BE PICKING UP DINNER?



I CAN DO THAT. ARE YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE, CLAIRE. OKAY THEN, SEE YOU TONIGHT. LOVE YOU.

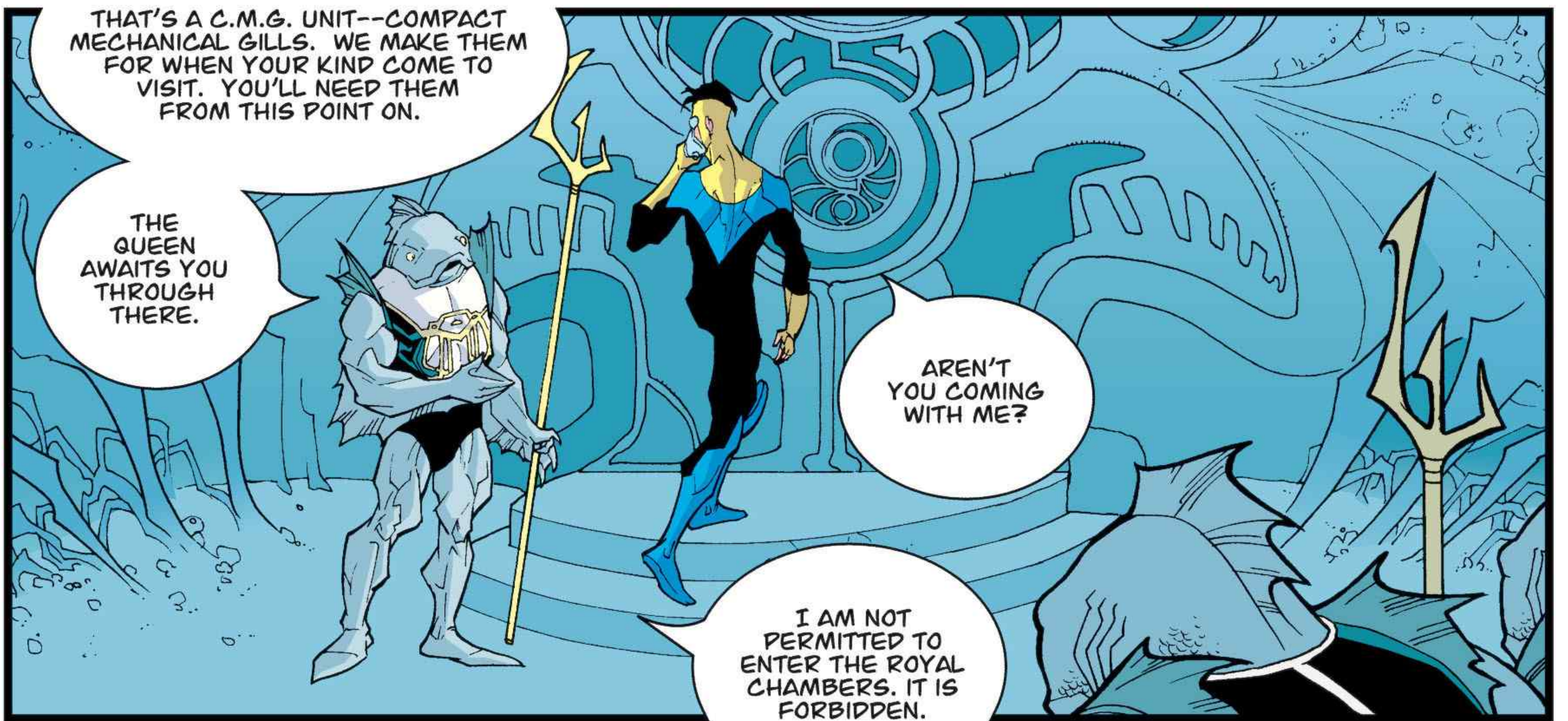
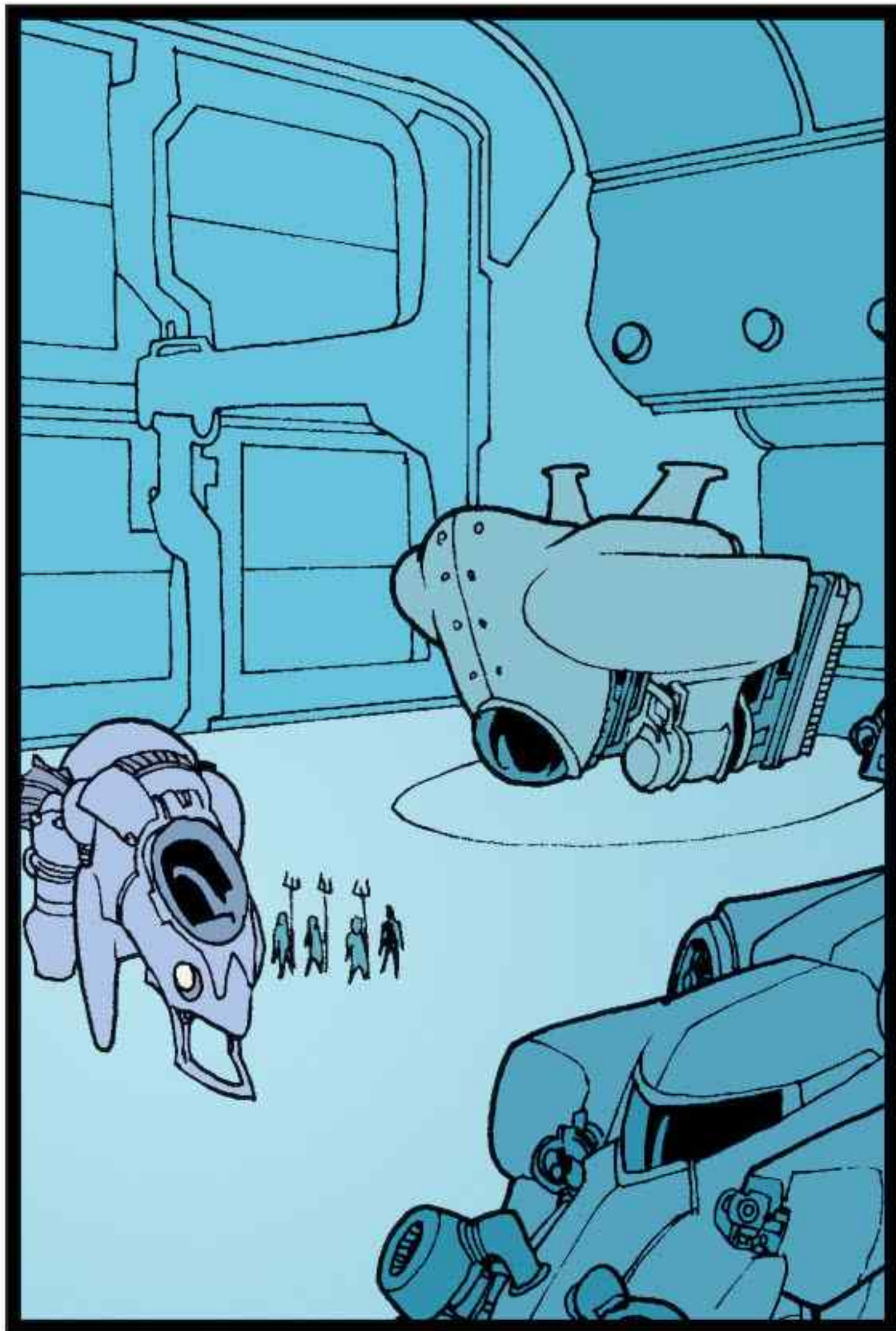
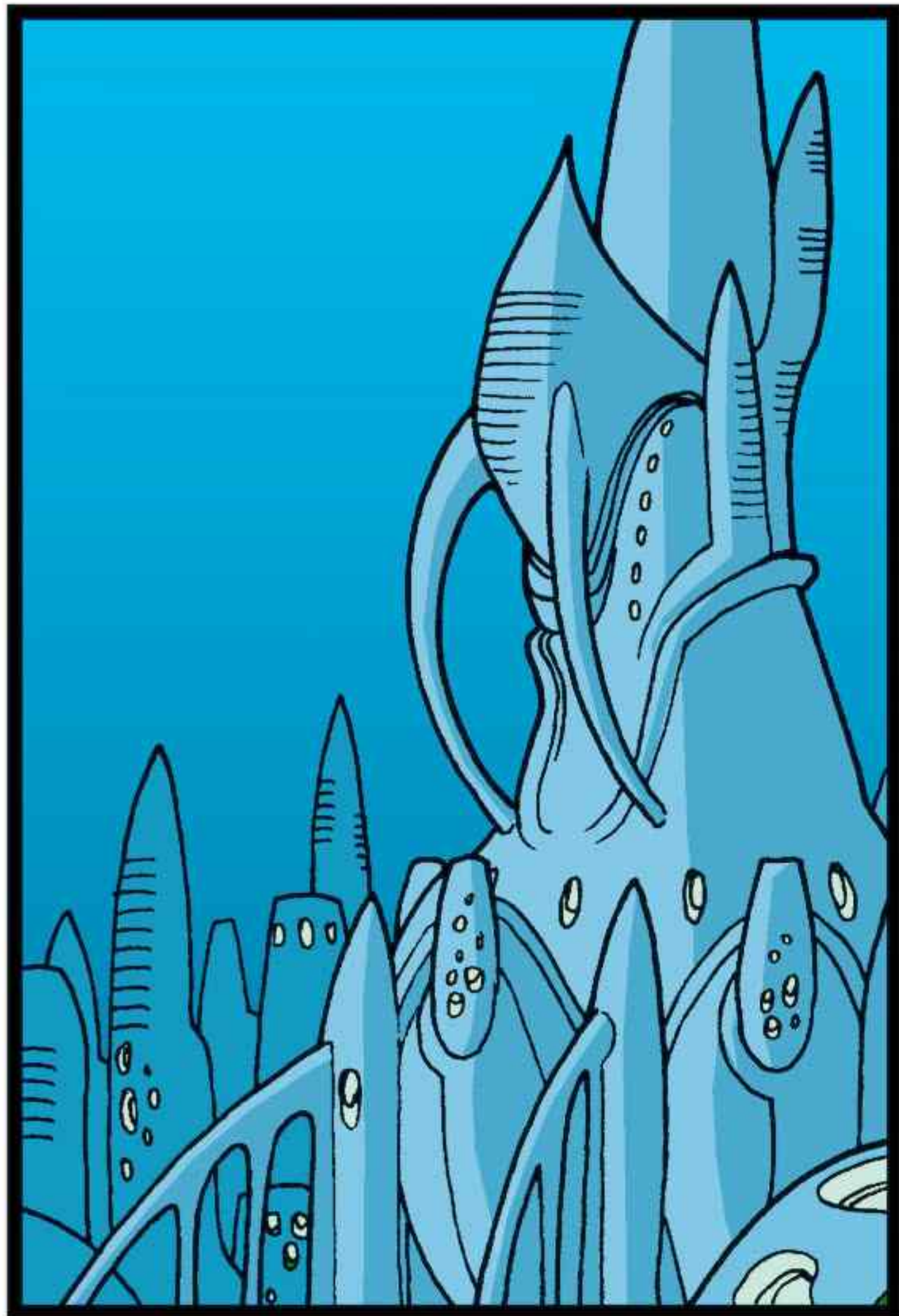
LOVE YOU, TOO.

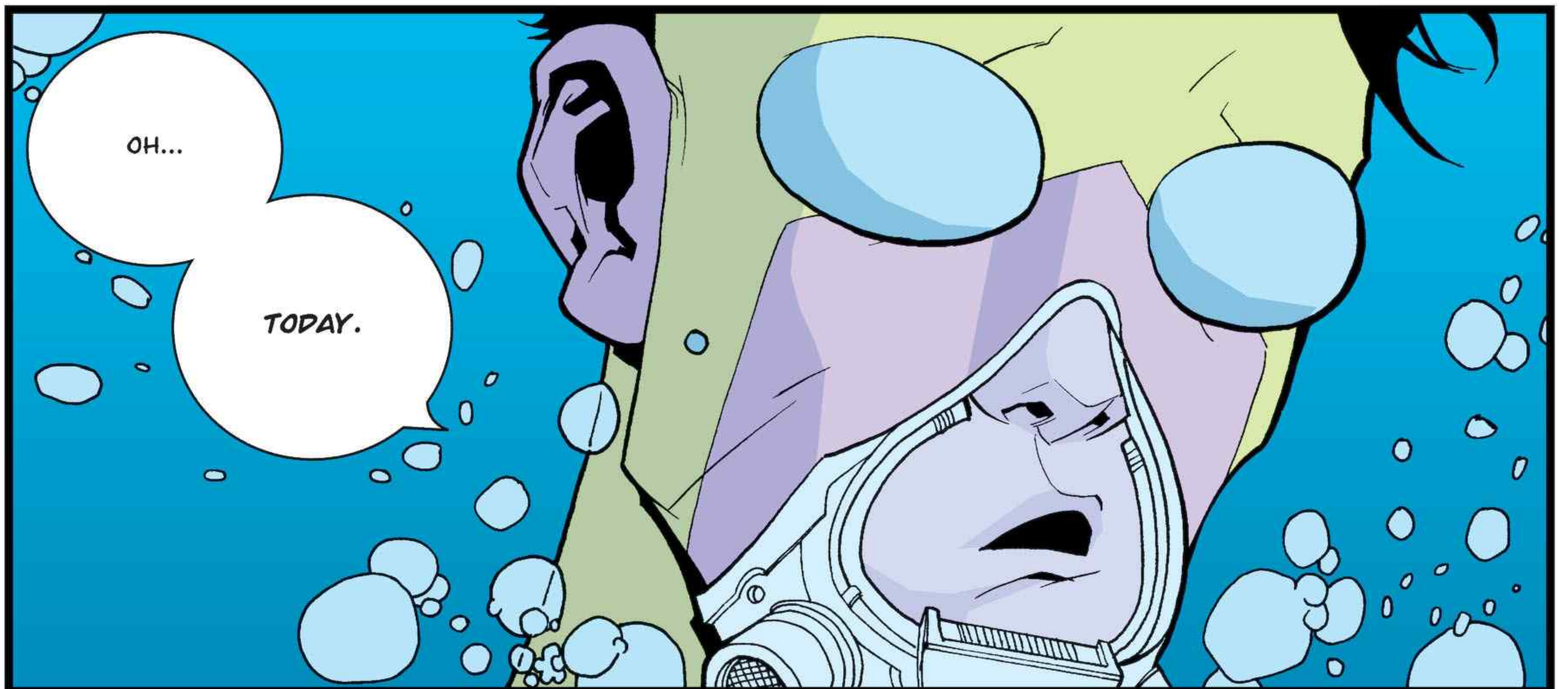
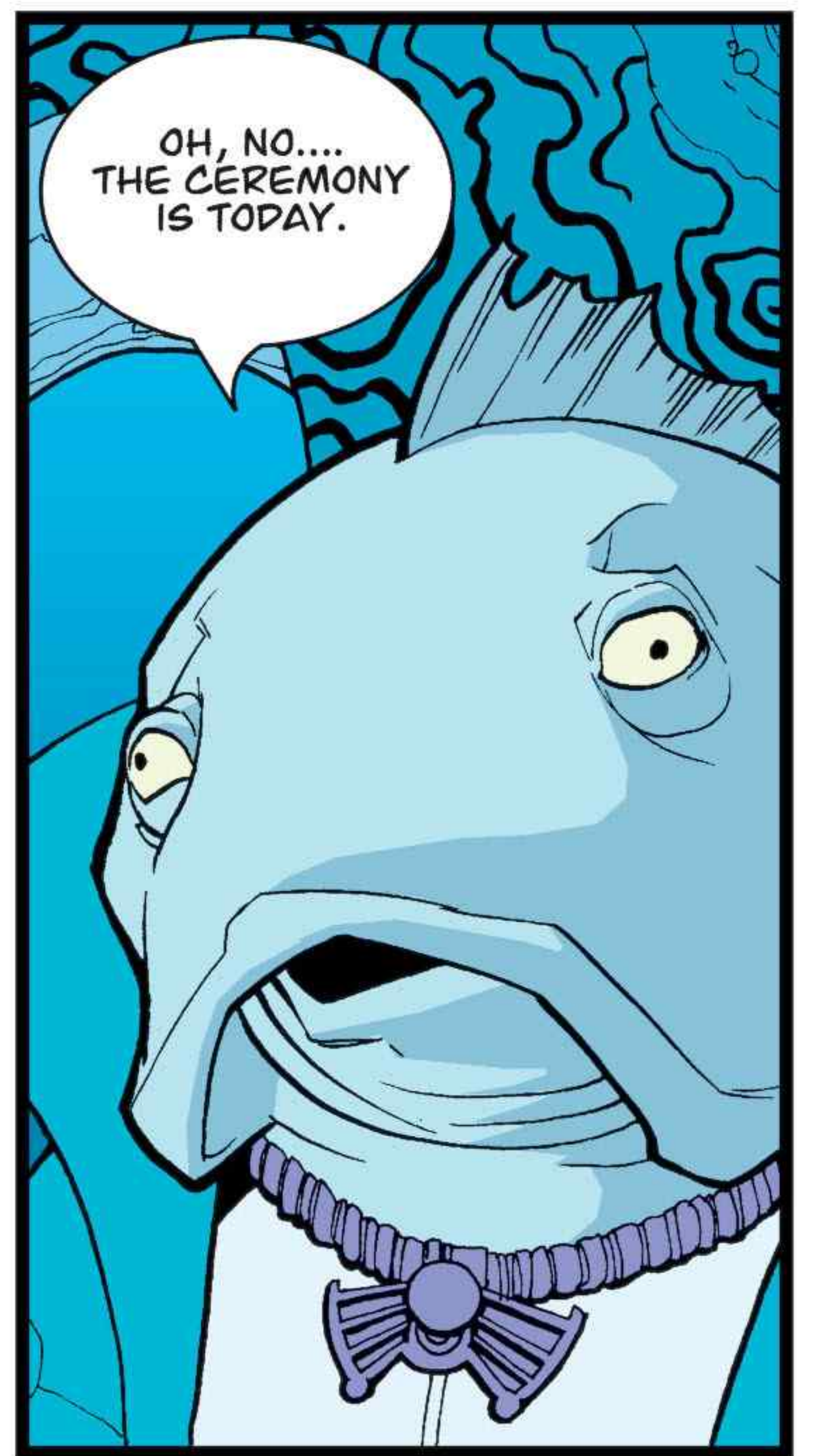
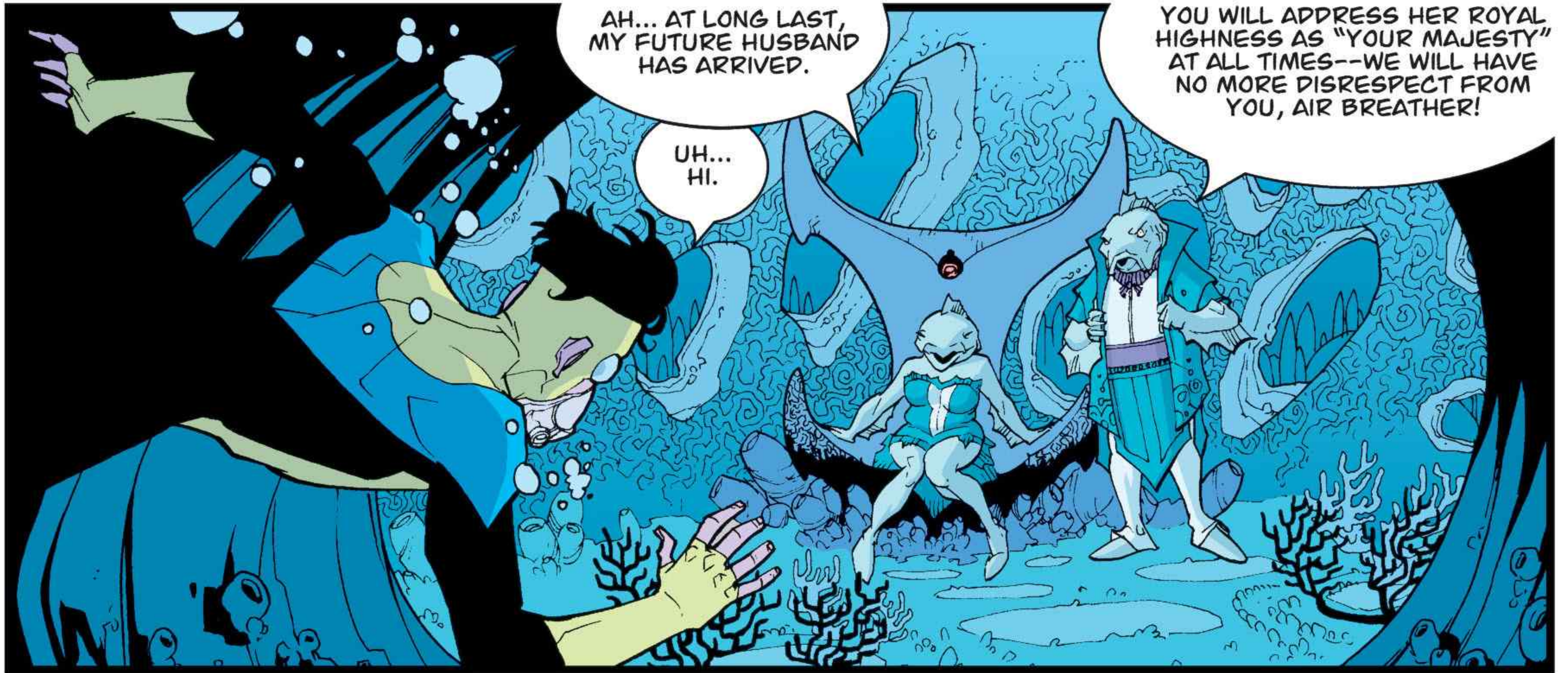


YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT A PAIN IN THE ASS IT IS TO BE MARRIED TO A SUPERHERO.

OH, I DON'T KNOW...

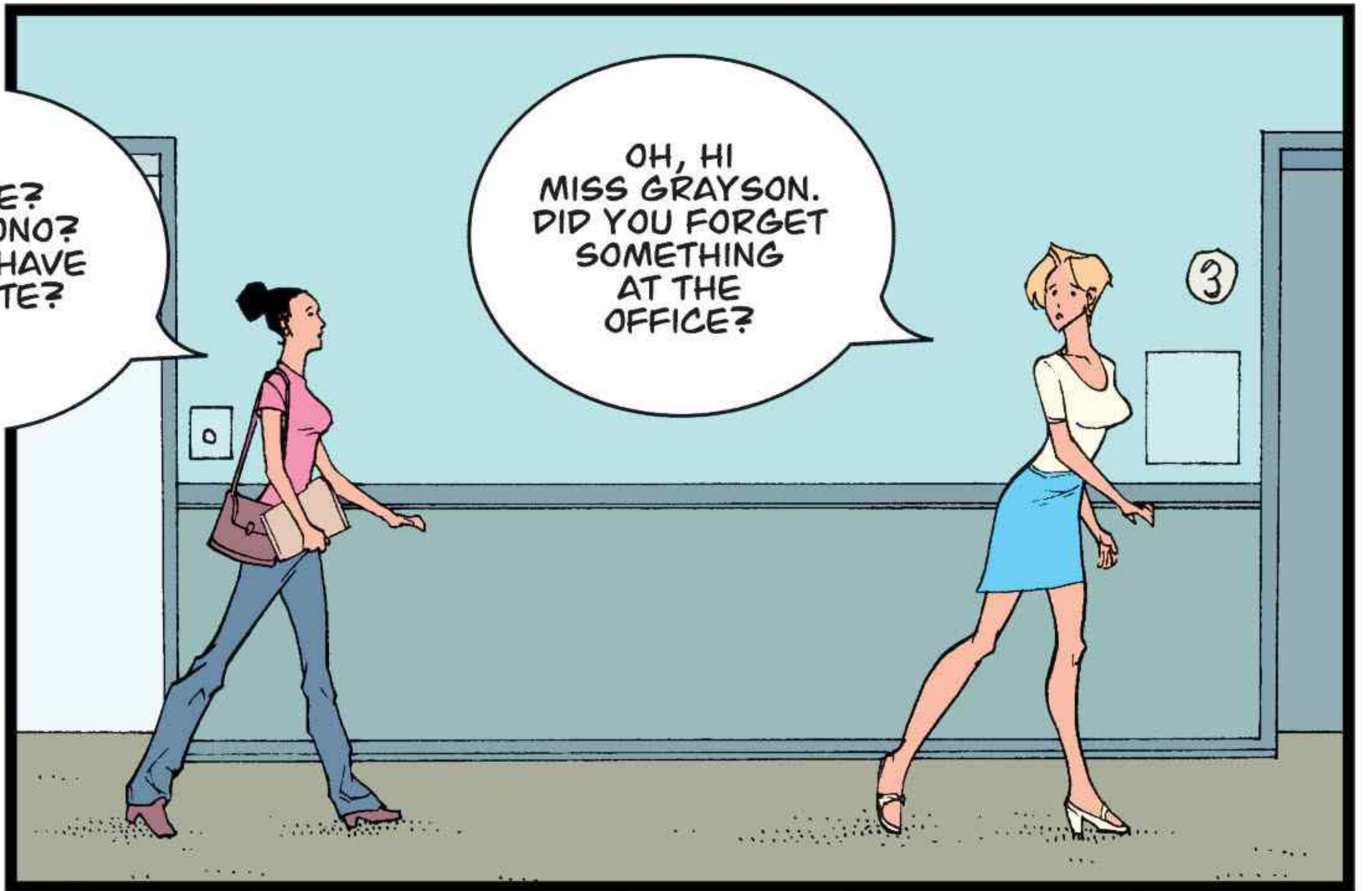








CLAIRE?
MISS BONO?
DO YOU HAVE
A MINUTE?



OH, HI
MISS GRAYSON.
DID YOU FORGET
SOMETHING
AT THE
OFFICE?



CLAIRE, I--I
WAS WONDERING
IF YOU WOULD GET
COFFEE WITH ME
LATER TODAY... IF
YOU HAD TIME.
I'D REALLY LIKE
TO TALK TO
YOU.

UM... SURE,
I GUESS, BUT
IF THERE'S SOMETHING
WE FORGOT TO GO OVER
ON THE CONTRACTS
WE COULD JUST
DO IT HERE.



NO--IT'S ABOUT MY HUSBAND,
I--HE... I JUST WANTED TO...
I DON'T HAVE ANYONE
ELSE TO TALK TO
AND I--

NO, IT'S NOT. I UNDERSTAND...
I LOST MY FATHER A FEW YEARS
AGO. I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
GOING THROUGH.

I'LL MEET YOU AT THE COFFEE
SHOP ON THE FIRST FLOOR. I'VE
GOT A MEETING, BUT I'LL BE
DOWN IN ABOUT AN
HOUR.



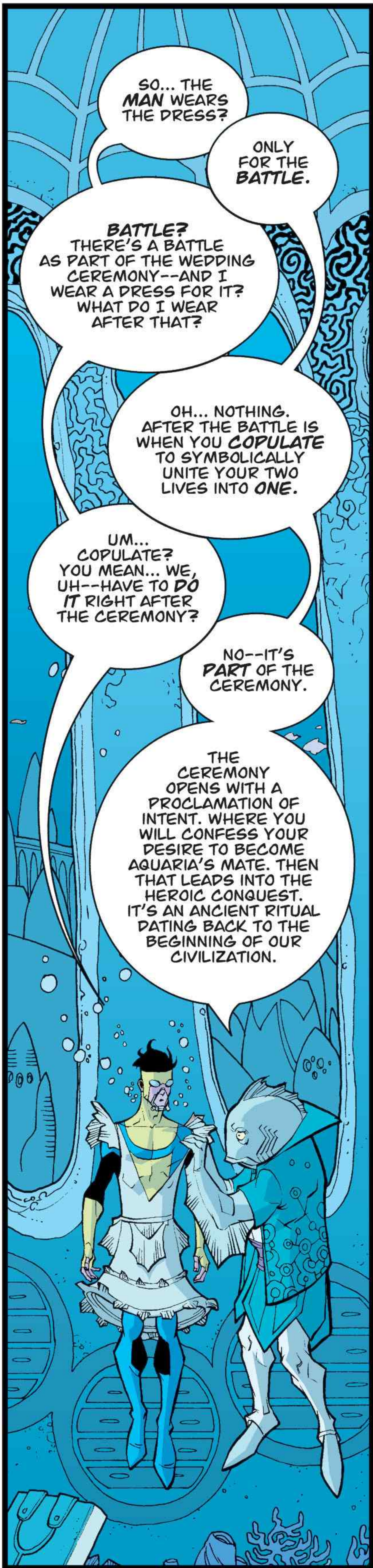
NO...
NEVER MIND...
THIS IS
STUPID.



OKAY.

THANKS.

I'LL SEE
YOU IN AN
HOUR.



SO... THE
MAN WEARS
THE DRESS?

ONLY
FOR THE
BATTLE.

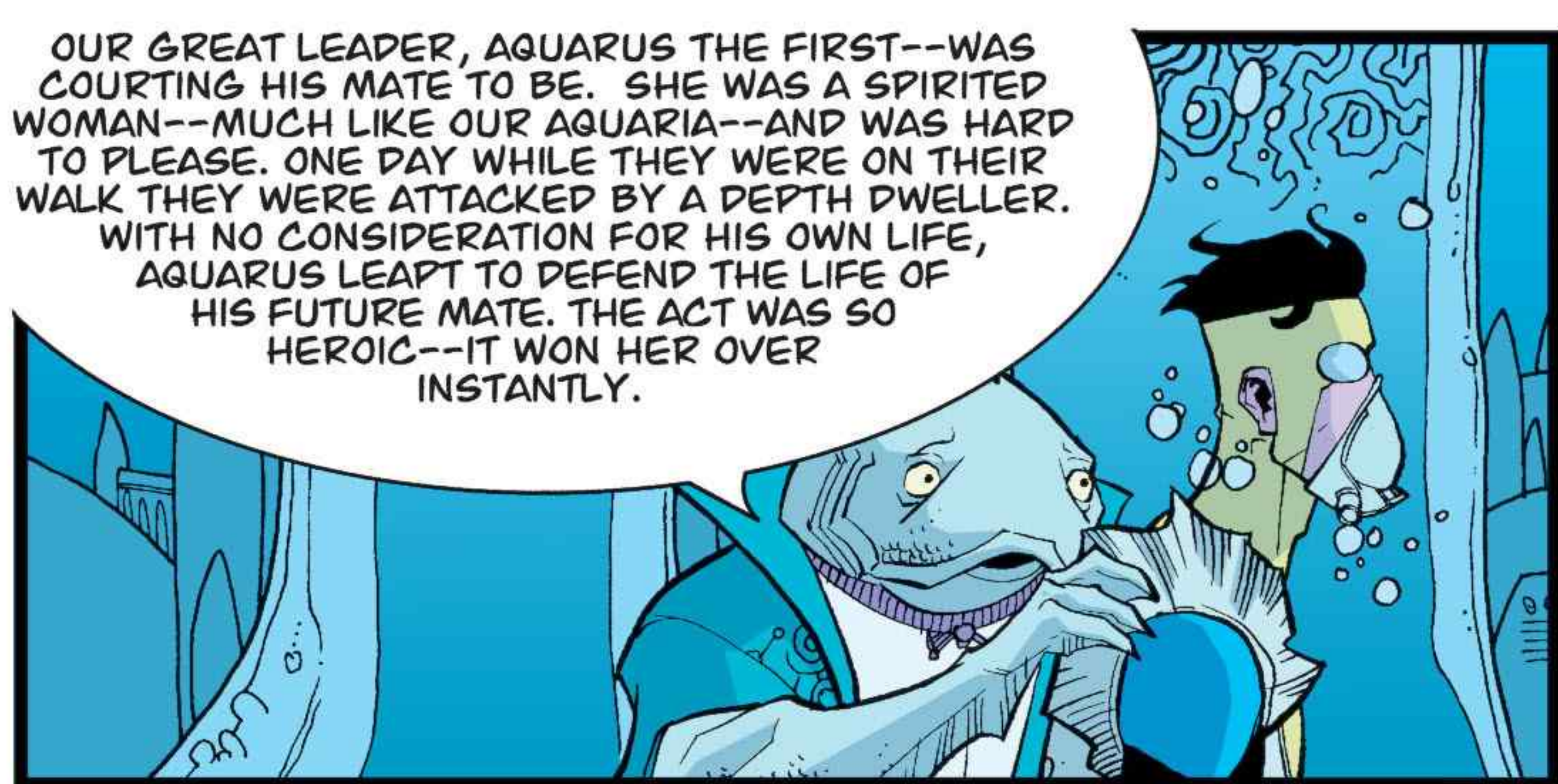
BATTLE?
THERE'S A BATTLE
AS PART OF THE WEDDING
CEREMONY--AND I
WEAR A DRESS FOR IT?
WHAT DO I WEAR
AFTER THAT?

OH... NOTHING.
AFTER THE BATTLE IS
WHEN YOU **COPULATE**
TO SYMBOLICALLY
UNITE YOUR TWO
LIVES INTO **ONE**.

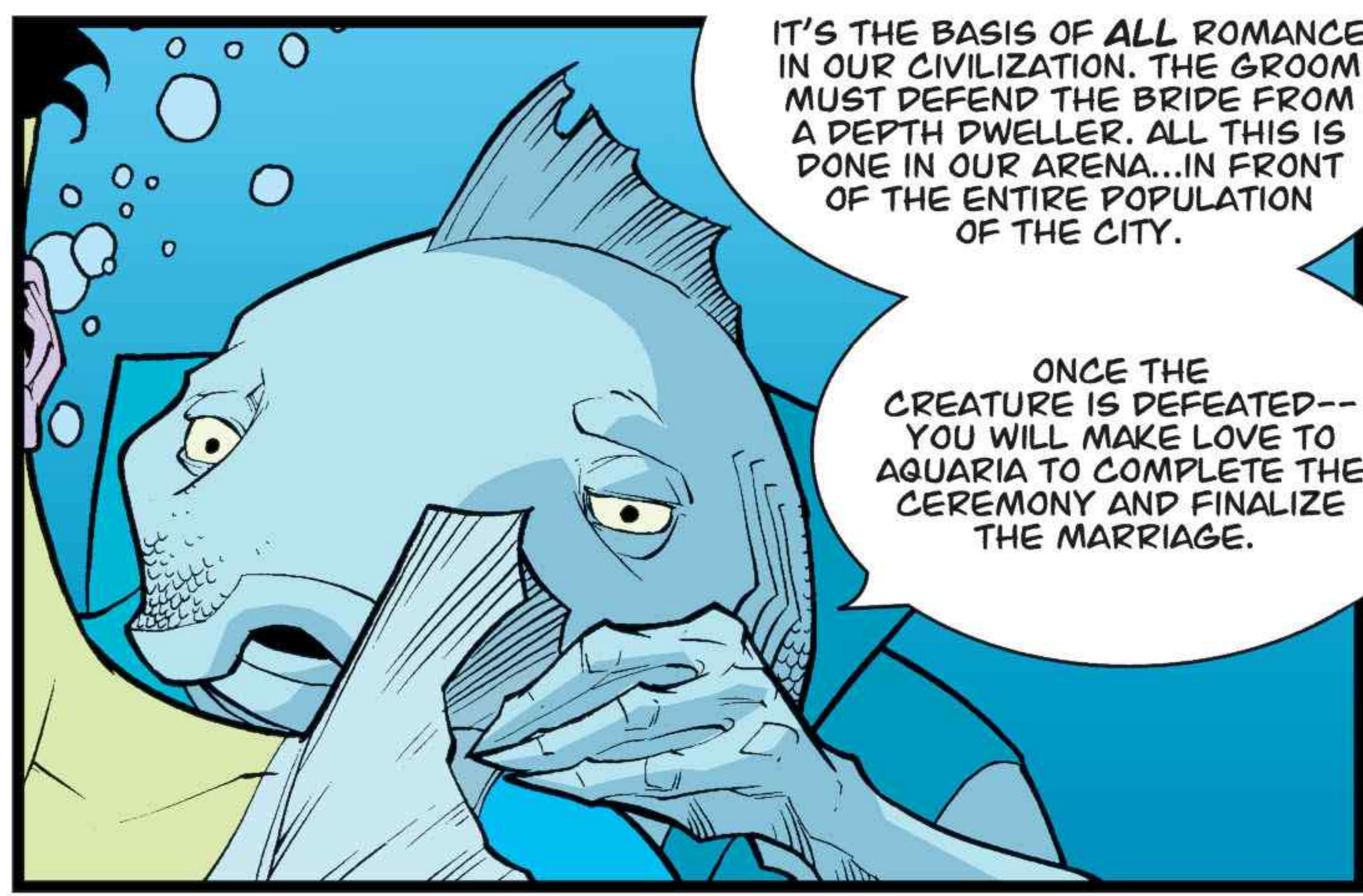
UM...
COPULATE?
YOU MEAN... WE,
UH--HAVE TO **DO**
IT RIGHT AFTER
THE CEREMONY?

NO--IT'S
PART OF THE
CEREMONY.

THE
CEREMONY
OPENS WITH A
PROCLAMATION OF
INTENT. WHERE YOU
WILL CONFESS YOUR
DESIRE TO BECOME
AQUARIA'S MATE. THEN
THAT LEADS INTO THE
HEROIC CONQUEST.
IT'S AN ANCIENT RITUAL
DATING BACK TO THE
BEGINNING OF OUR
CIVILIZATION.

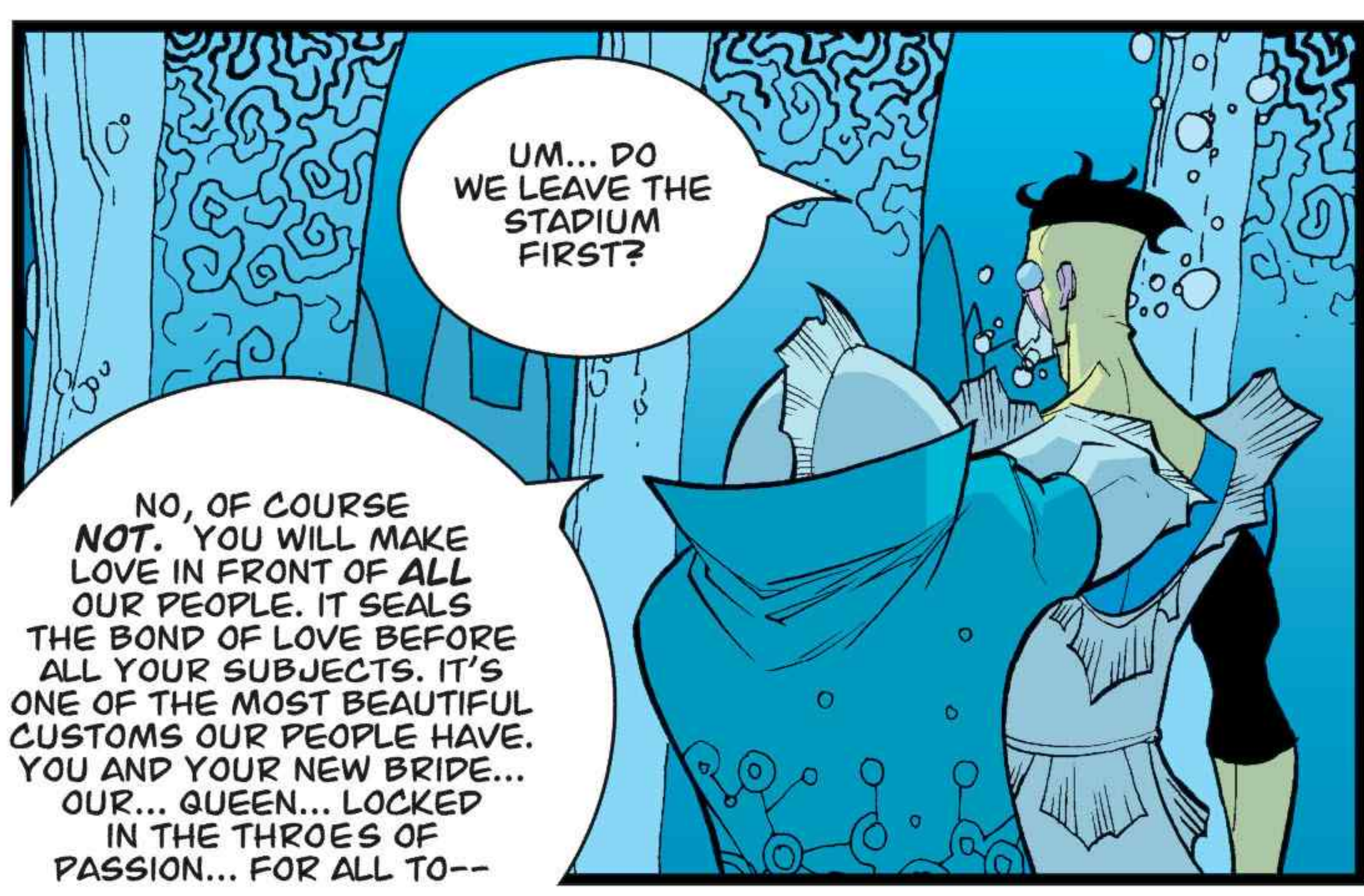


OUR GREAT LEADER, AQUARUS THE FIRST--WAS
COURTING HIS MATE TO BE. SHE WAS A SPIRITED
WOMAN--MUCH LIKE OUR AQUARIA--AND WAS HARD
TO PLEASE. ONE DAY WHILE THEY WERE ON THEIR
WALK THEY WERE ATTACKED BY A DEPTH DWELLER.
WITH NO CONSIDERATION FOR HIS OWN LIFE,
AQUARUS LEAPT TO DEFEND THE LIFE OF
HIS FUTURE MATE. THE ACT WAS SO
HEROIC--IT WON HER OVER
INSTANTLY.



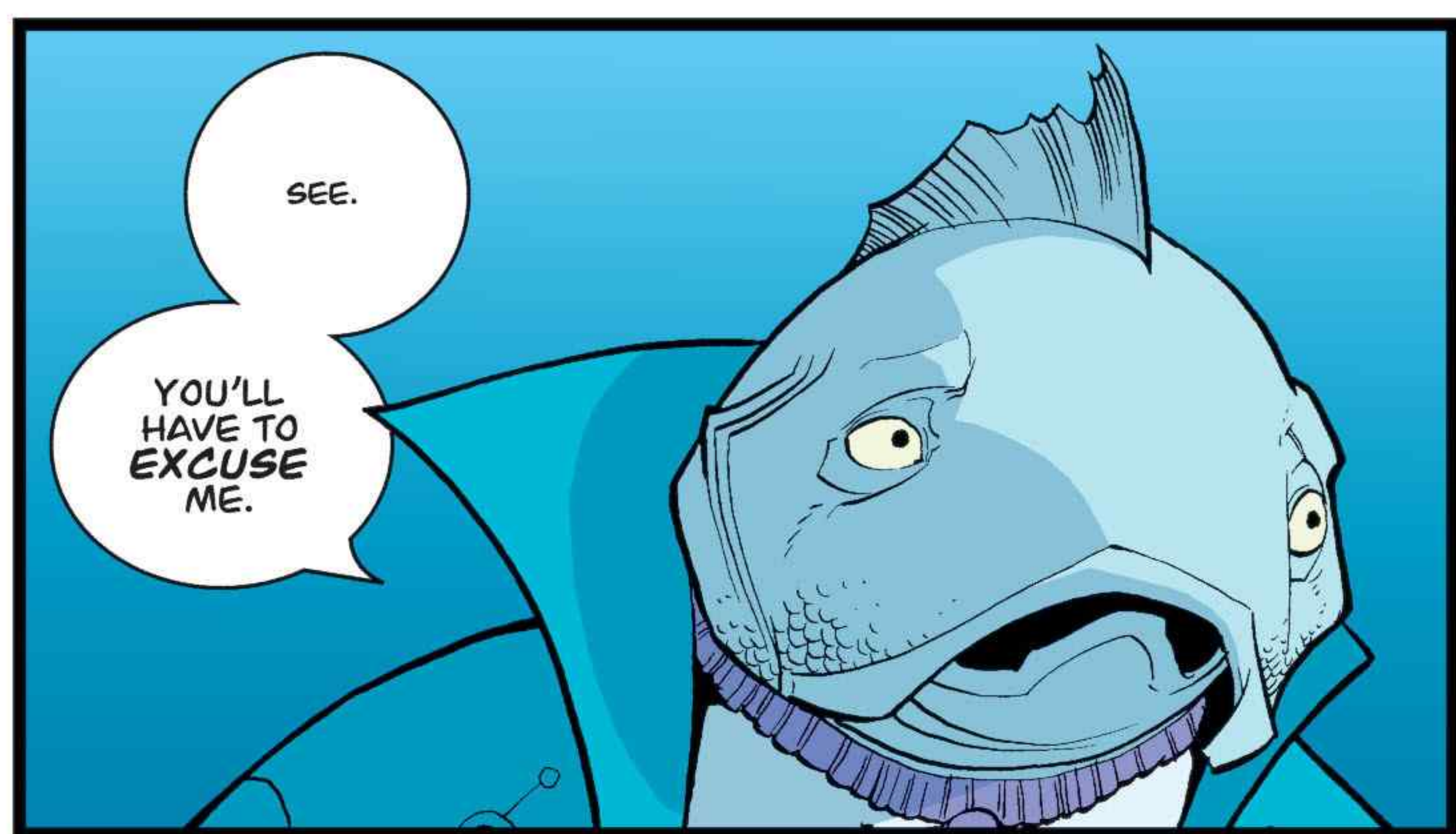
IT'S THE BASIS OF ALL ROMANCE
IN OUR CIVILIZATION. THE GROOM
MUST DEFEND THE BRIDE FROM
A DEPTH DWELLER. ALL THIS IS
DONE IN OUR ARENA...IN FRONT
OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION
OF THE CITY.

ONCE THE
CREATURE IS DEFEATED--
YOU WILL MAKE LOVE TO
AQUARIA TO COMPLETE THE
CEREMONY AND FINALIZE
THE MARRIAGE.



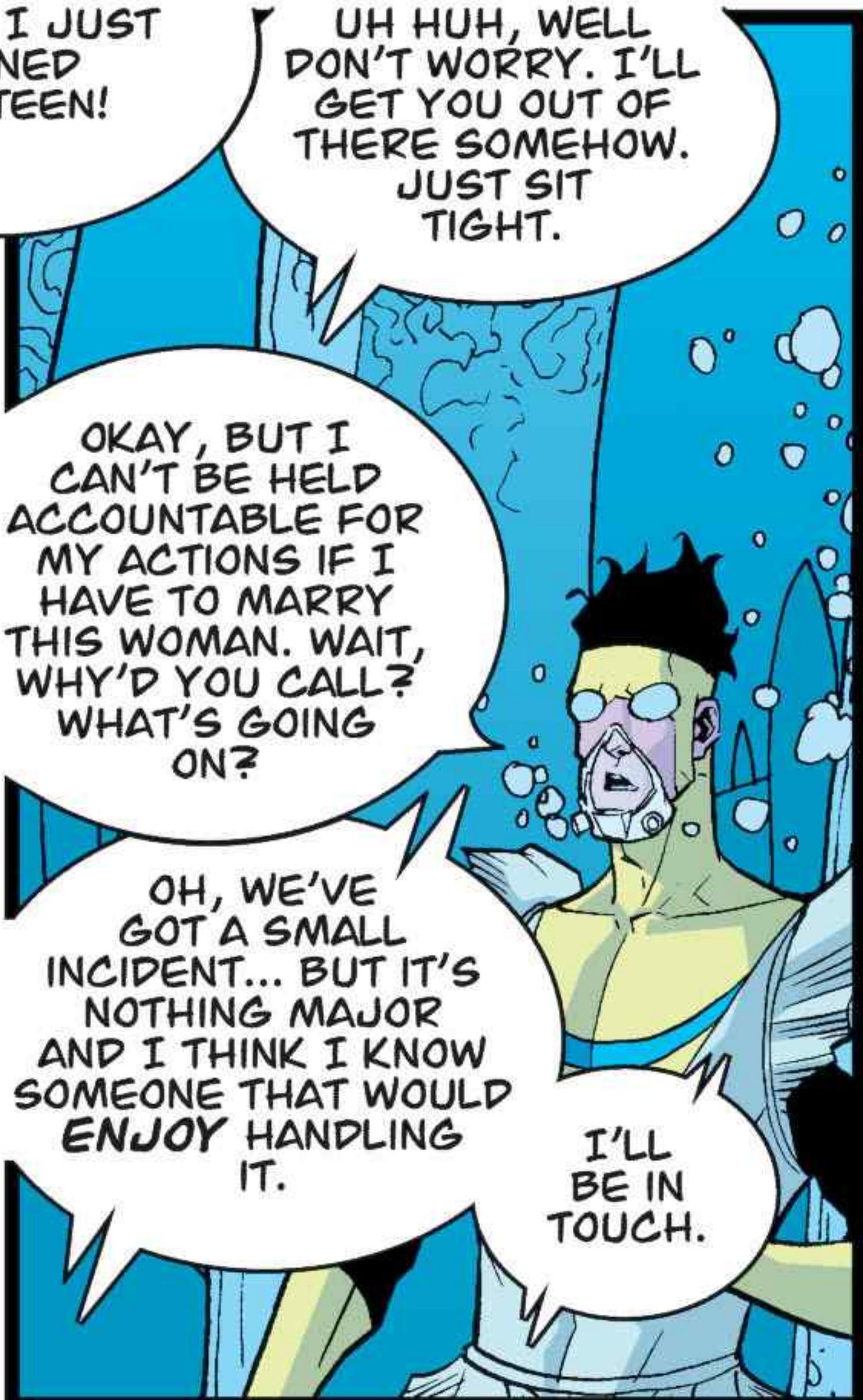
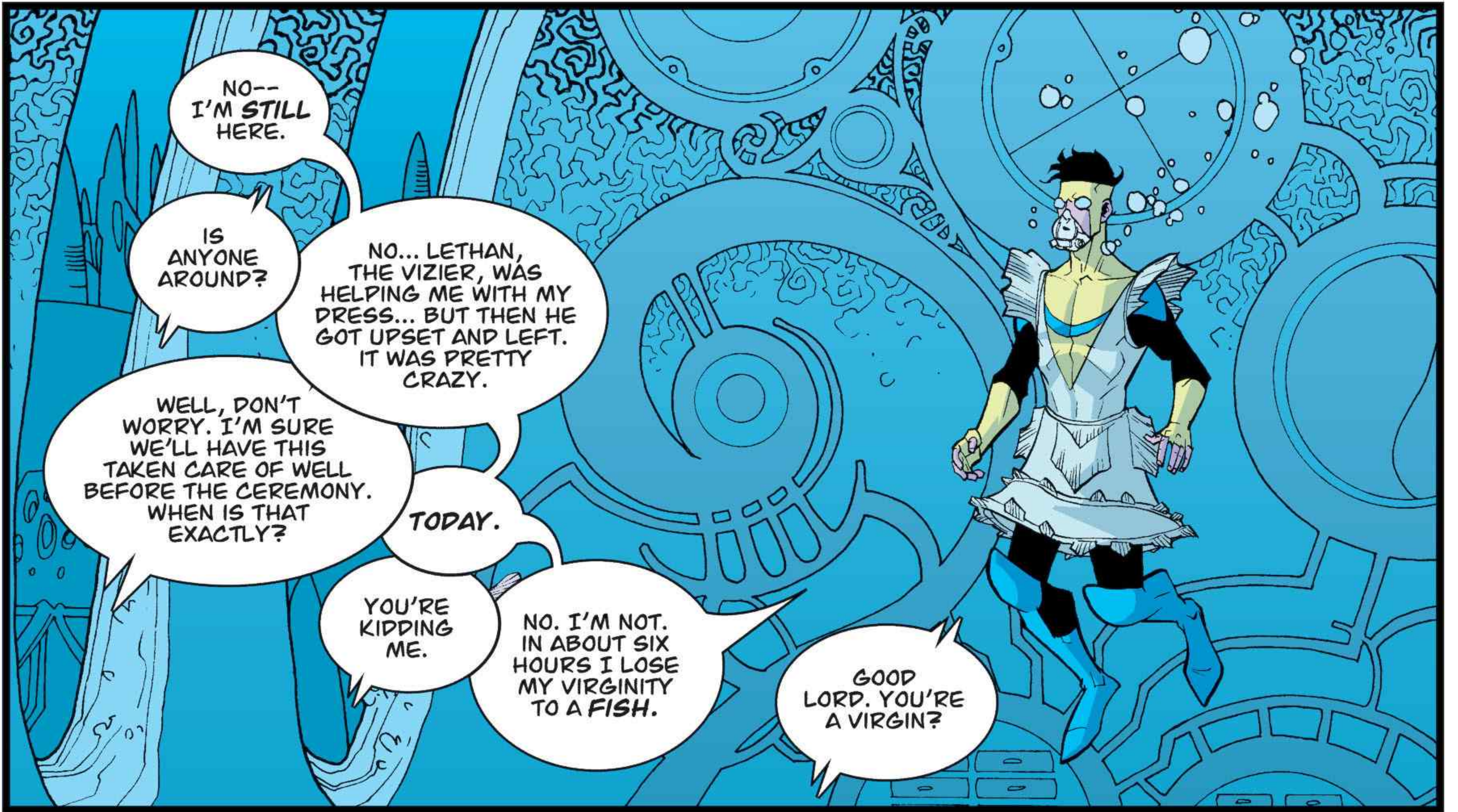
UM... DO
WE LEAVE THE
STADIUM
FIRST?

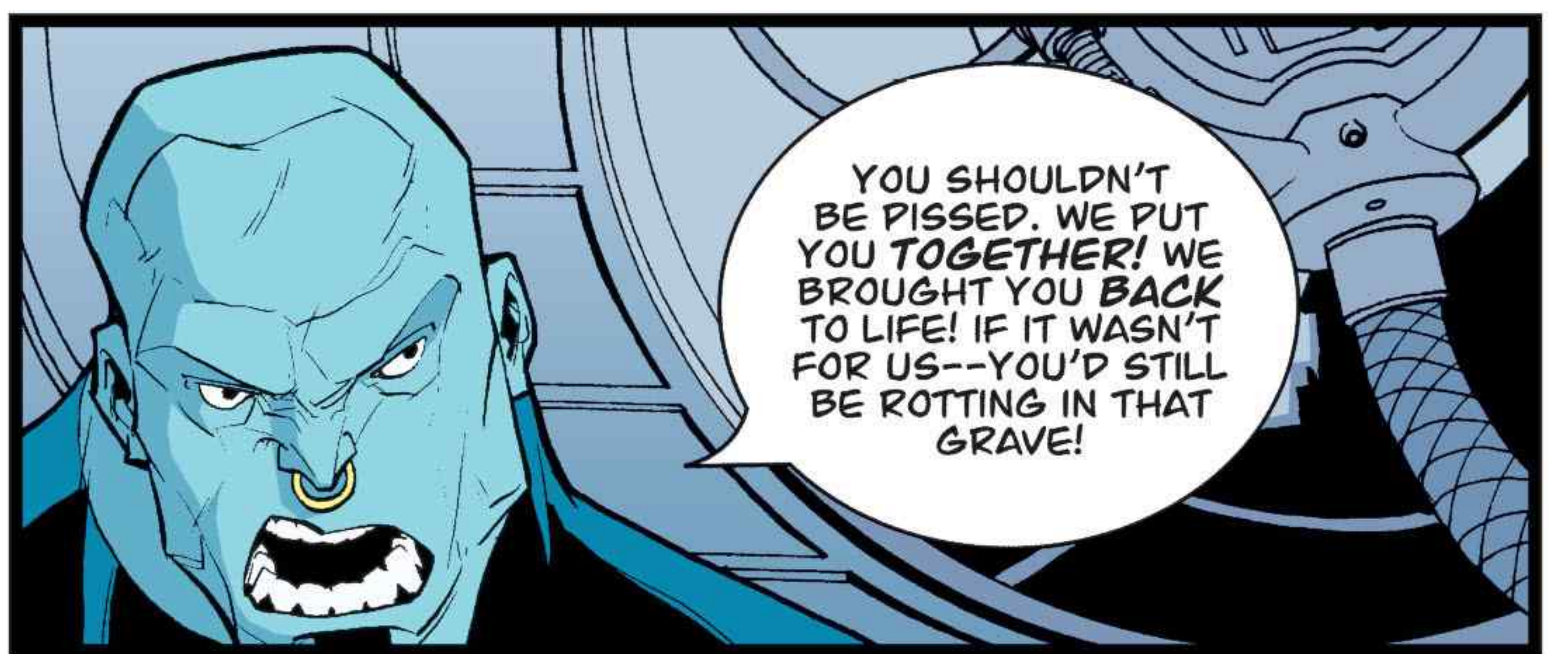
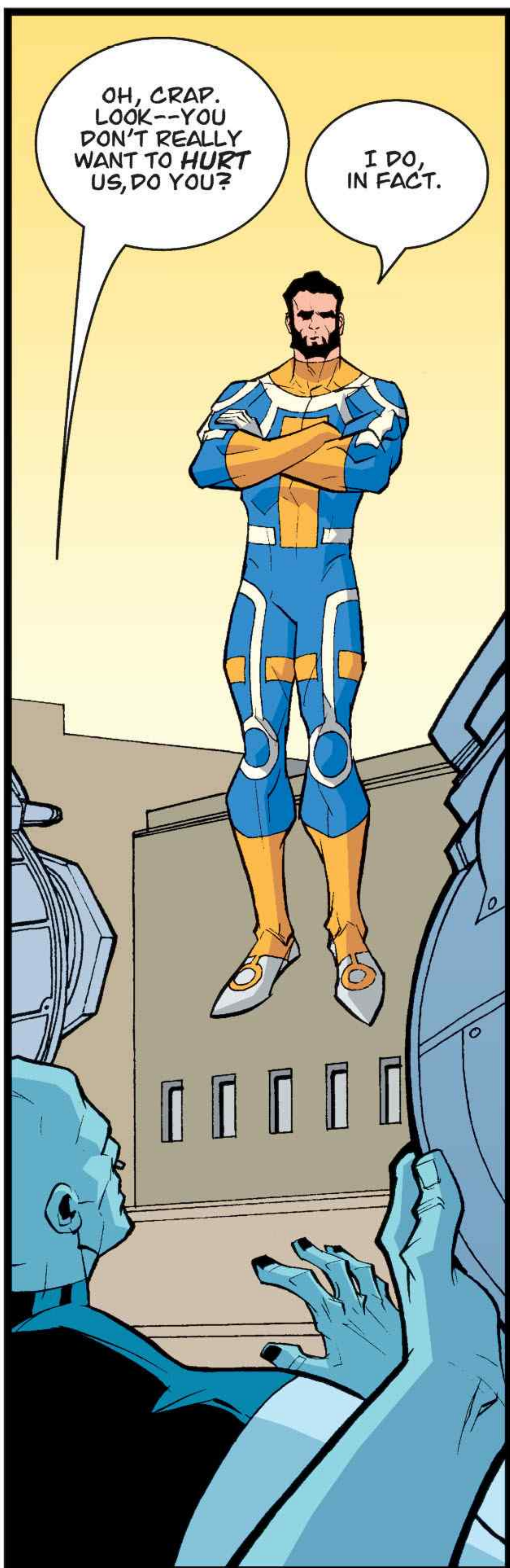
NO, OF COURSE
NOT. YOU WILL MAKE
LOVE IN FRONT OF **ALL**
OUR PEOPLE. IT SEALS
THE BOND OF LOVE BEFORE
ALL YOUR SUBJECTS. IT'S
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
CUSTOMS OUR PEOPLE HAVE.
YOU AND YOUR NEW BRIDE...
OUR... QUEEN... LOCKED
IN THE THROES OF
PASSION... FOR ALL TO--

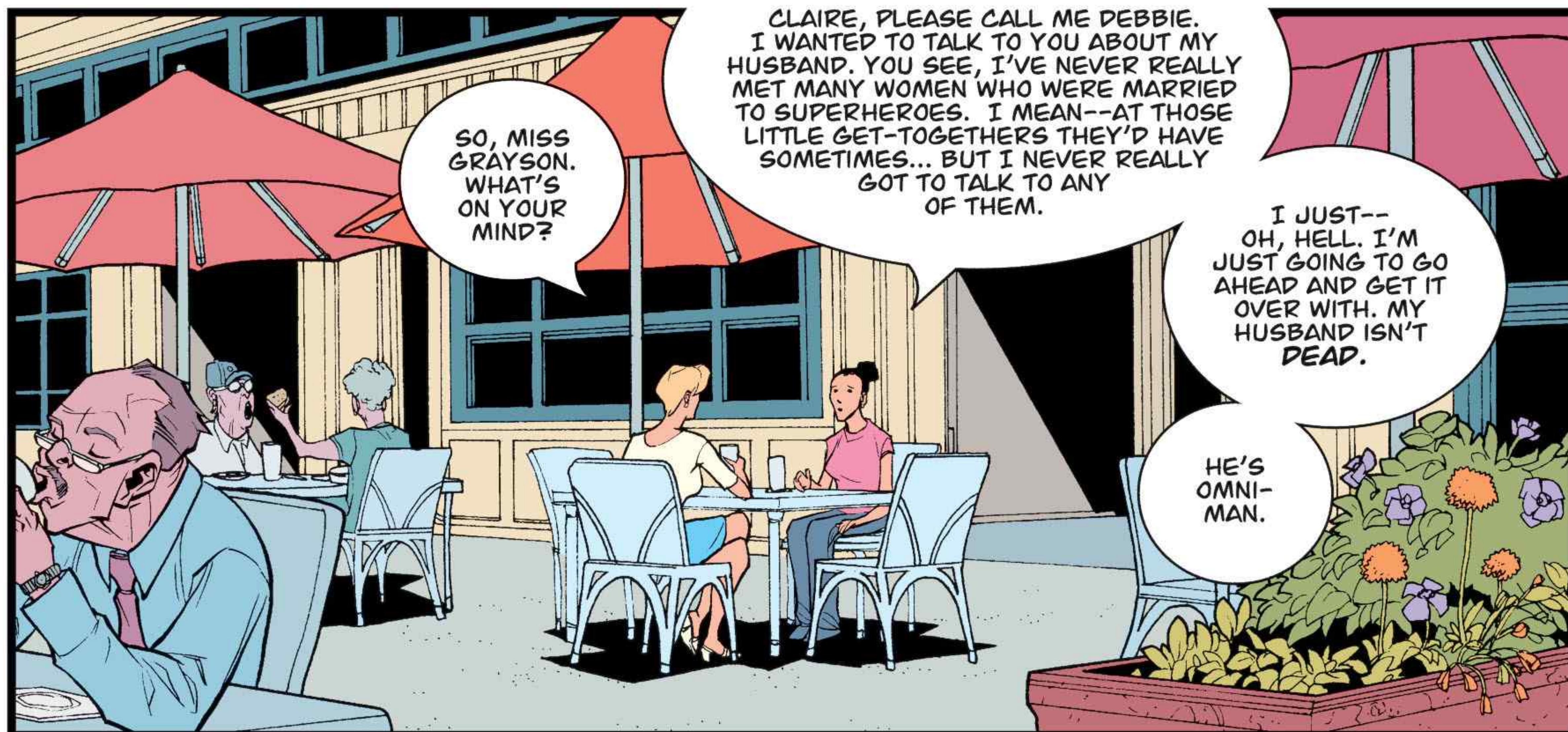


SEE.

YOU'LL
HAVE TO
EXCUSE
ME.







SO, MISS GRAYSON. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

CLAIRE, PLEASE CALL ME DEBBIE. I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY HUSBAND. YOU SEE, I'VE NEVER REALLY MET MANY WOMEN WHO WERE MARRIED TO SUPERHEROES. I MEAN--AT THOSE LITTLE GET-TOGETHERS THEY'D HAVE SOMETIMES... BUT I NEVER REALLY GOT TO TALK TO ANY OF THEM.

I JUST-- OH, HELL. I'M JUST GOING TO GO AHEAD AND GET IT OVER WITH. MY HUSBAND ISN'T DEAD.

HE'S OMNI-MAN.



THE OMNI-MAN? THE ONE FROM THE NEWS? THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THAT DESTRUCTION? OH MY GOD! THAT WOULD MAKE YOUR SON INVINCIBLE... IS HE OKAY?



YES, PLEASE... KEEP IT DOWN, OKAY? I REALLY DON'T WANT THAT GETTING OUT. I MEAN, I CAN TRUST YOU CAN'T I?

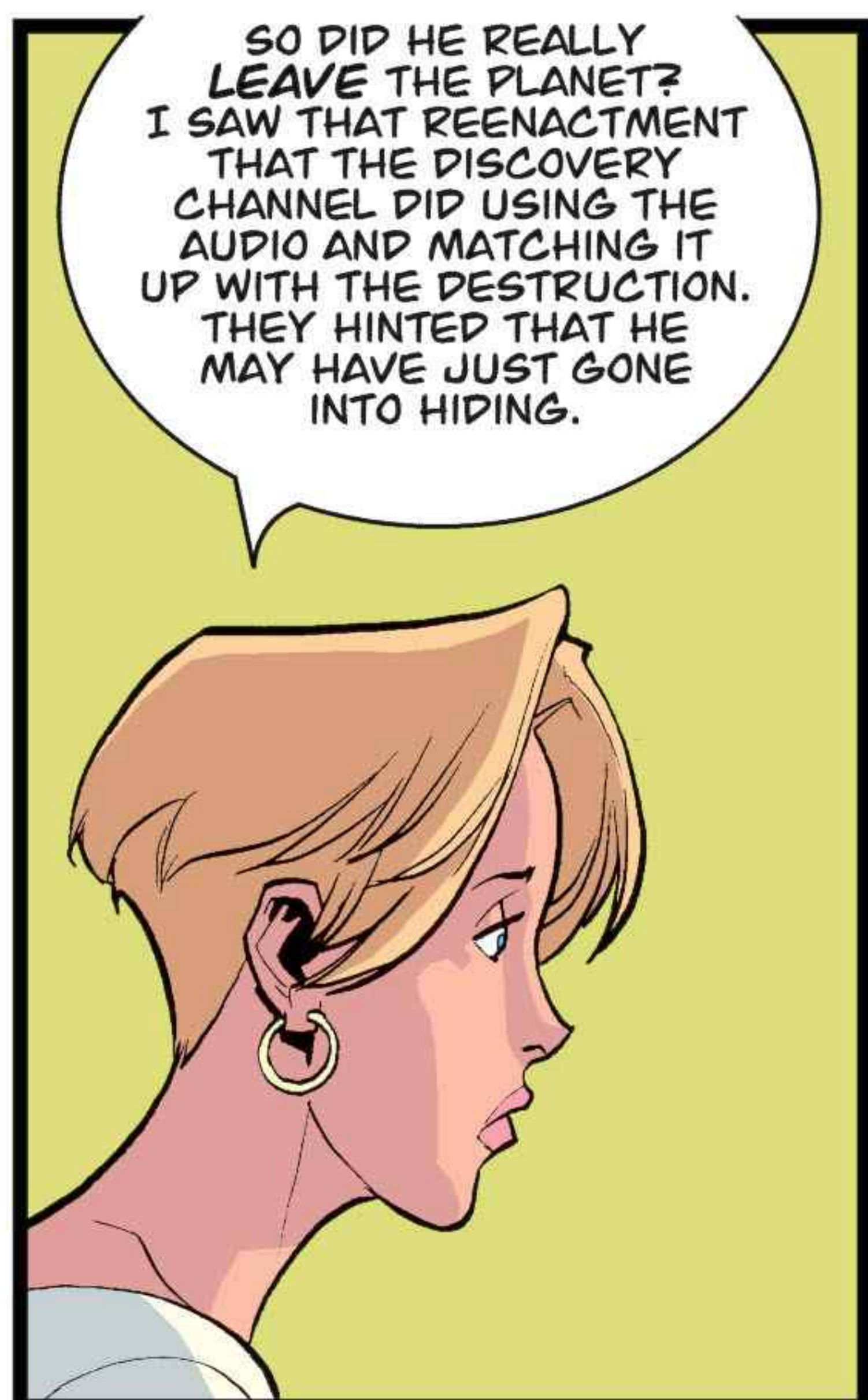
YES, OF COURSE-- ABSOLUTELY.



OF, COURSE... I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW MUCH BETTER HIS BOOKS WOULD BE SELLING IF THE WORLD KNEW...

CLAIRE.

DON'T WORRY. SUPERPATRIOT HIMSELF DOESN'T HAVE A SECRET IDENTITY BUT I UNDERSTAND THE NEED, ESPECIALLY IN YOUR CASE WITH YOUR SON. AND AFTER ALL YOUR HUSBAND HAS DONE.



SO DID HE REALLY LEAVE THE PLANET? I SAW THAT REENACTMENT THAT THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL DID USING THE AUDIO AND MATCHING IT UP WITH THE DESTRUCTION. THEY HINTED THAT HE MAY HAVE JUST GONE INTO HIDING.

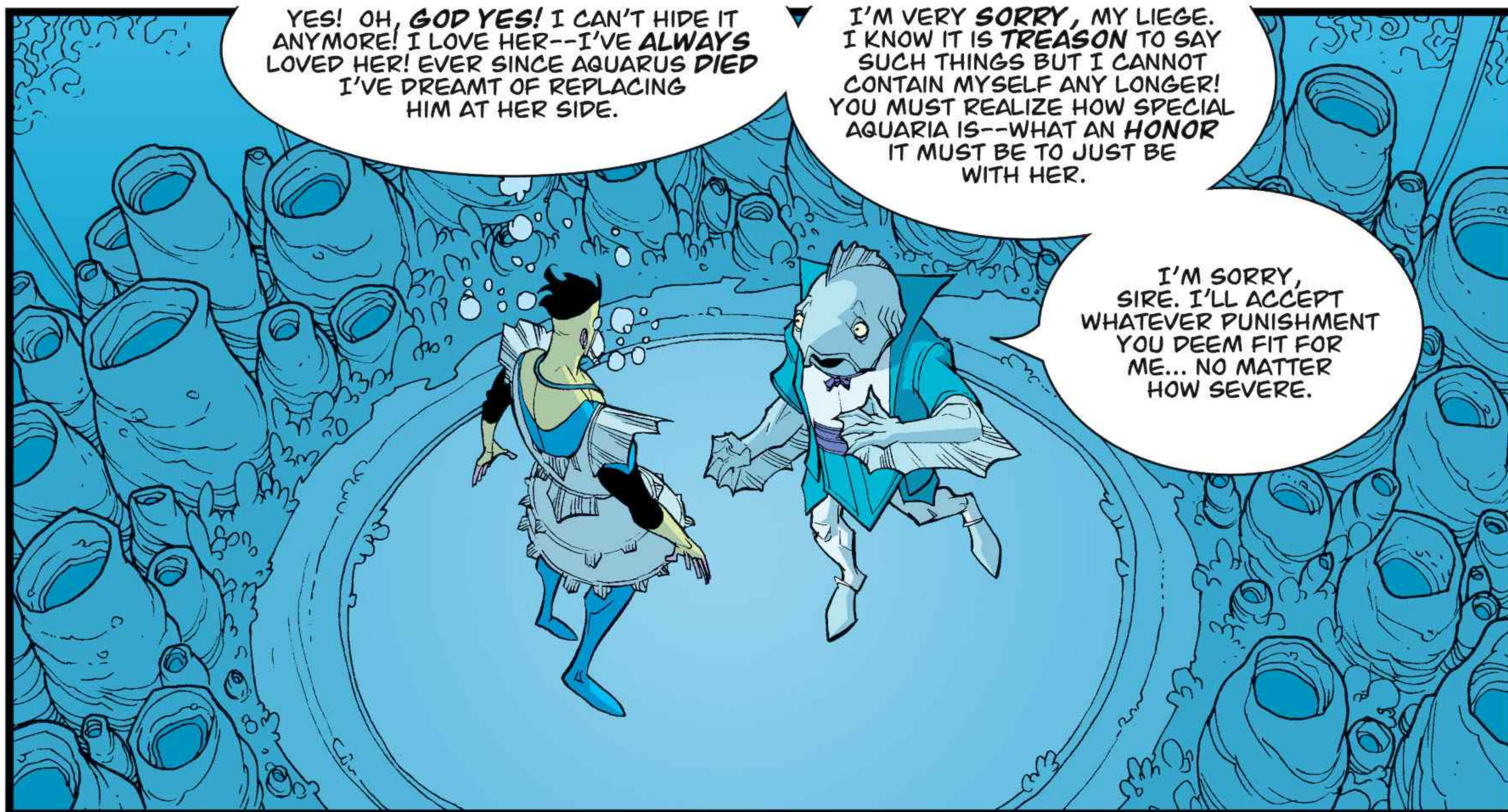


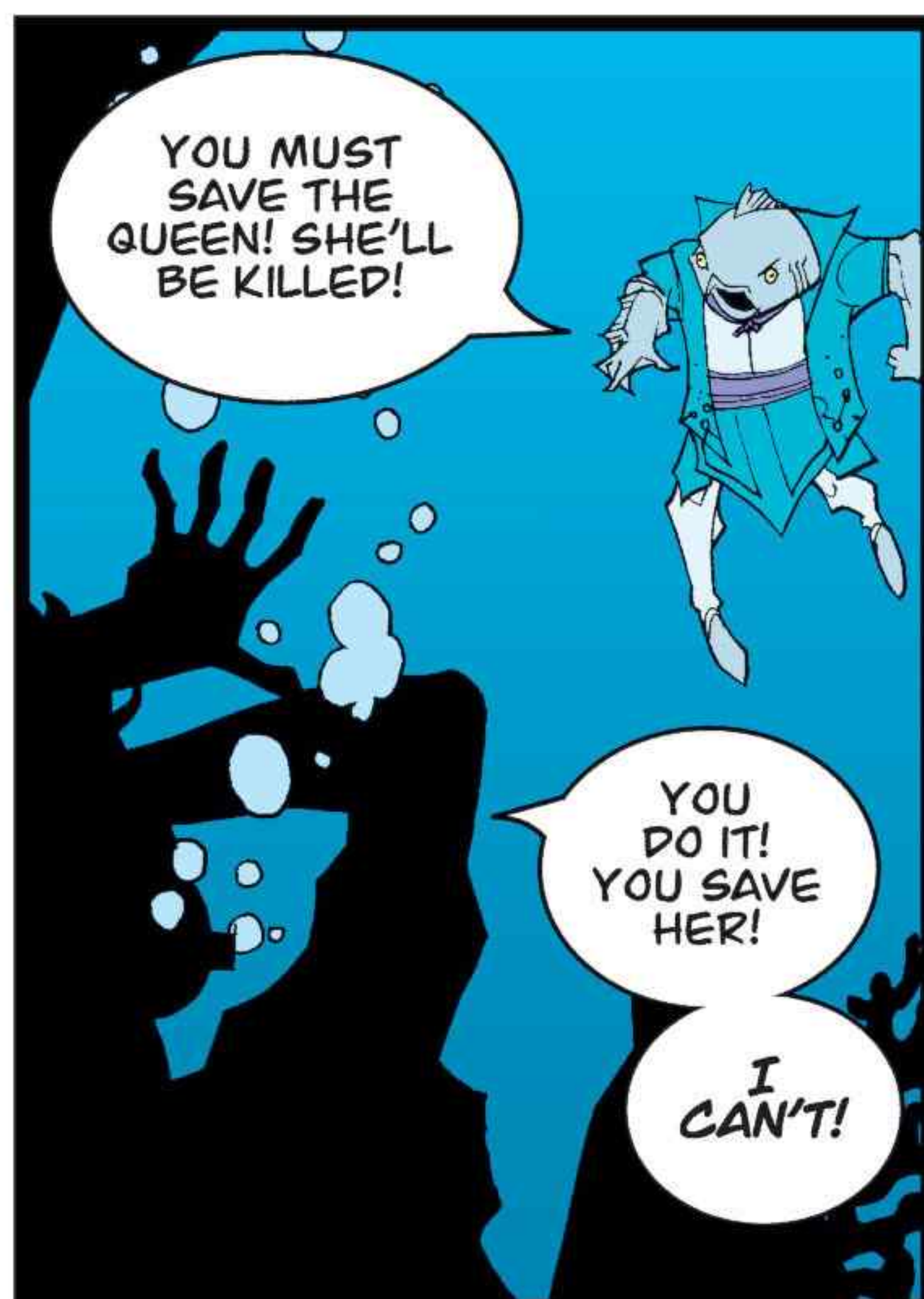
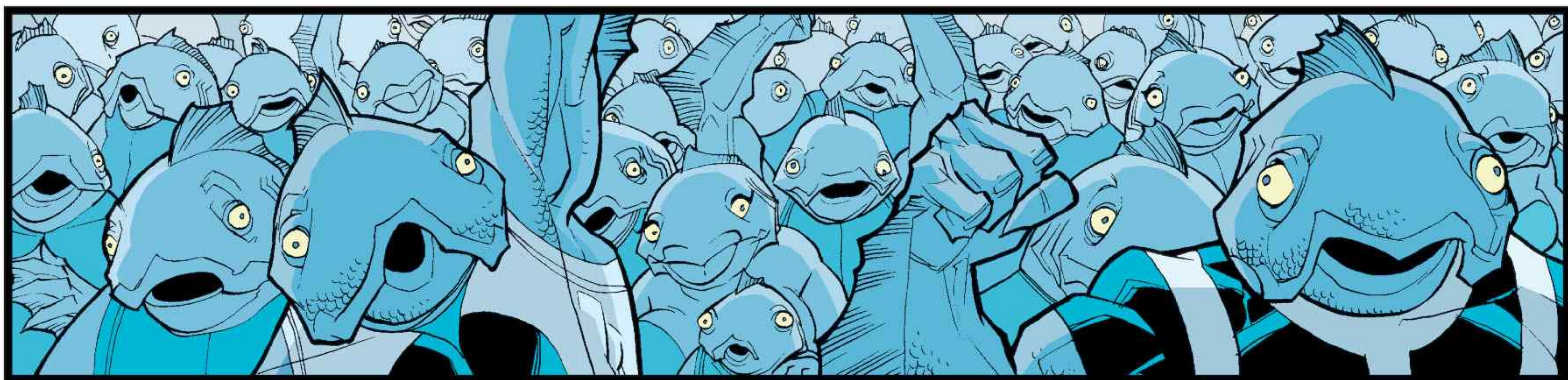
NO. HE'S GONE.

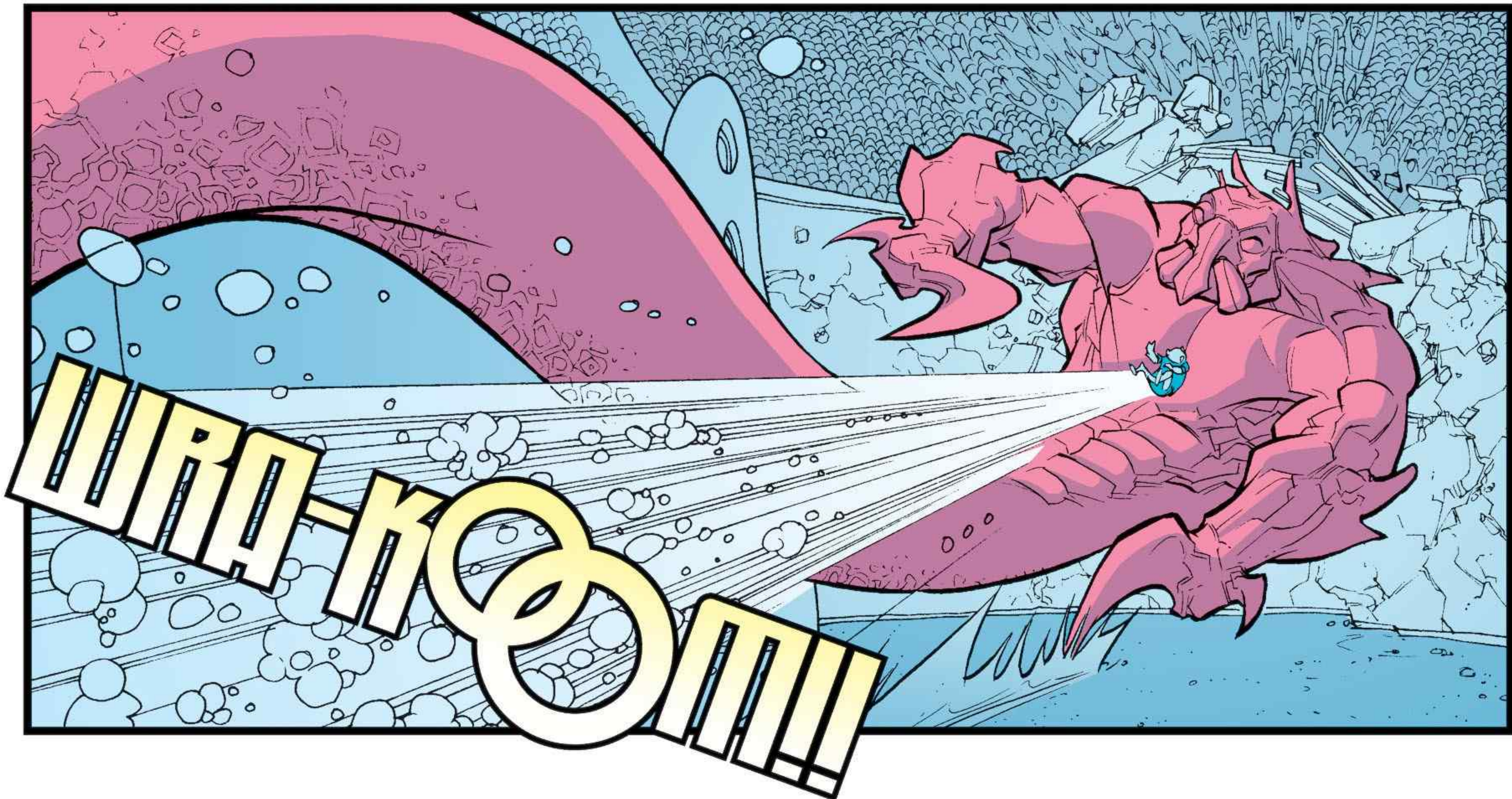
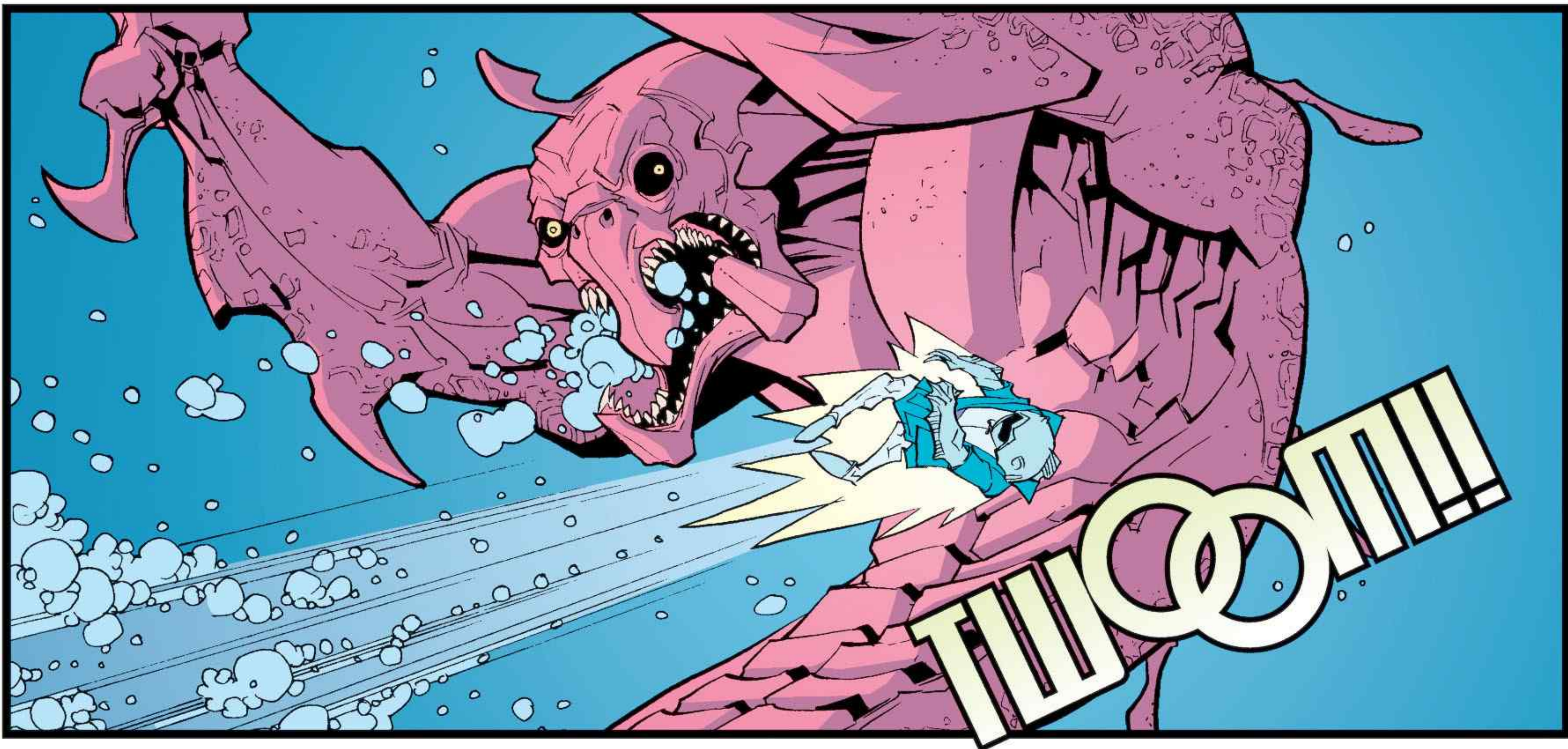
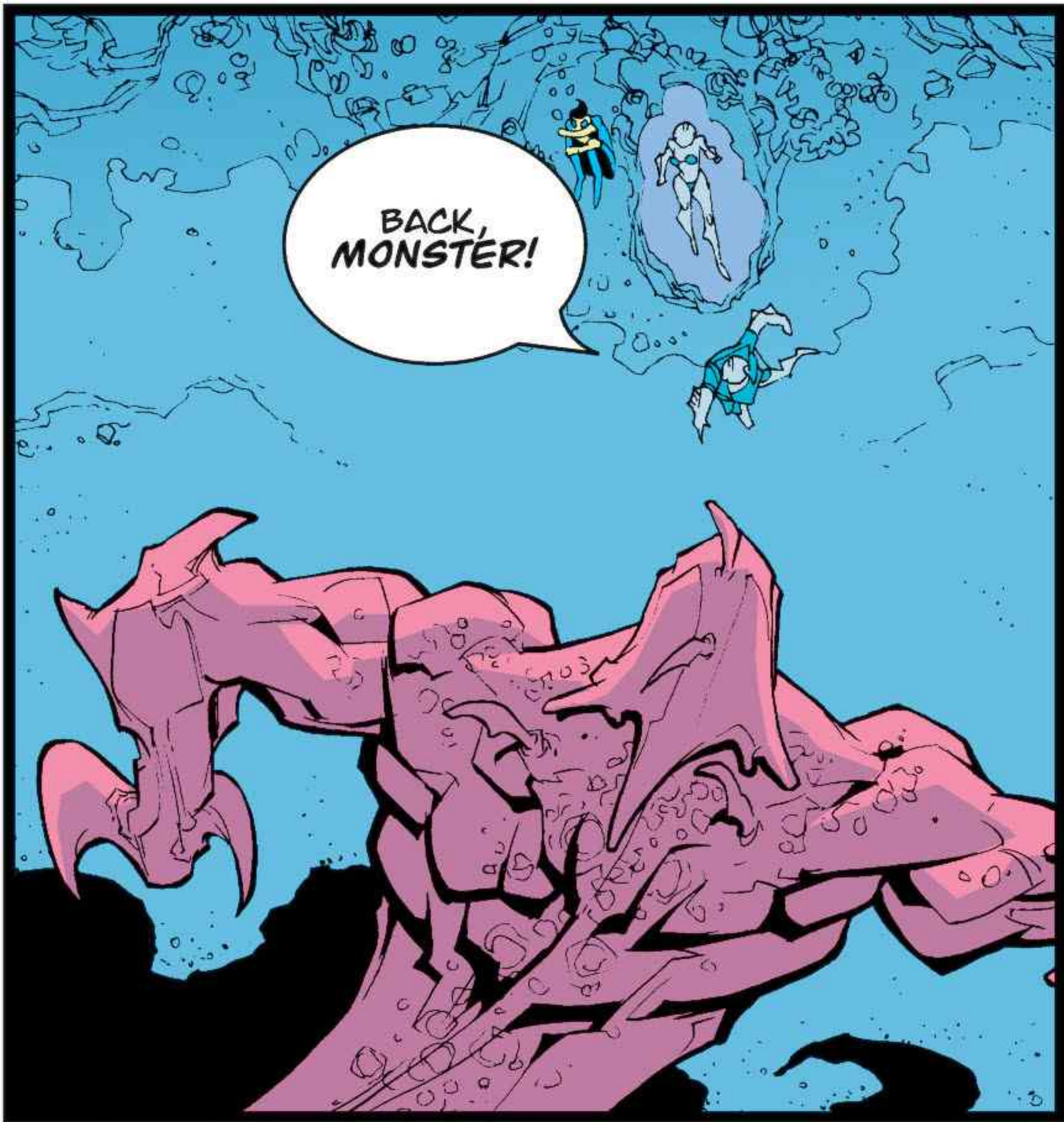


SO YOU'RE HUSBAND ISN'T DEAD, HE'S JUST AN EVIL SON OF A BITCH THAT TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE **WORLD**, AND THEN LEFT YOU AND YOUR SON AND RAN OFF TO GOD KNOWS WHERE. **SCREW HIM**... HE TURNED OUT TO BE JUST LIKE MOST OF THE OTHER **JERKS** ON THIS PLANET.

IT'S A LITTLE MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.

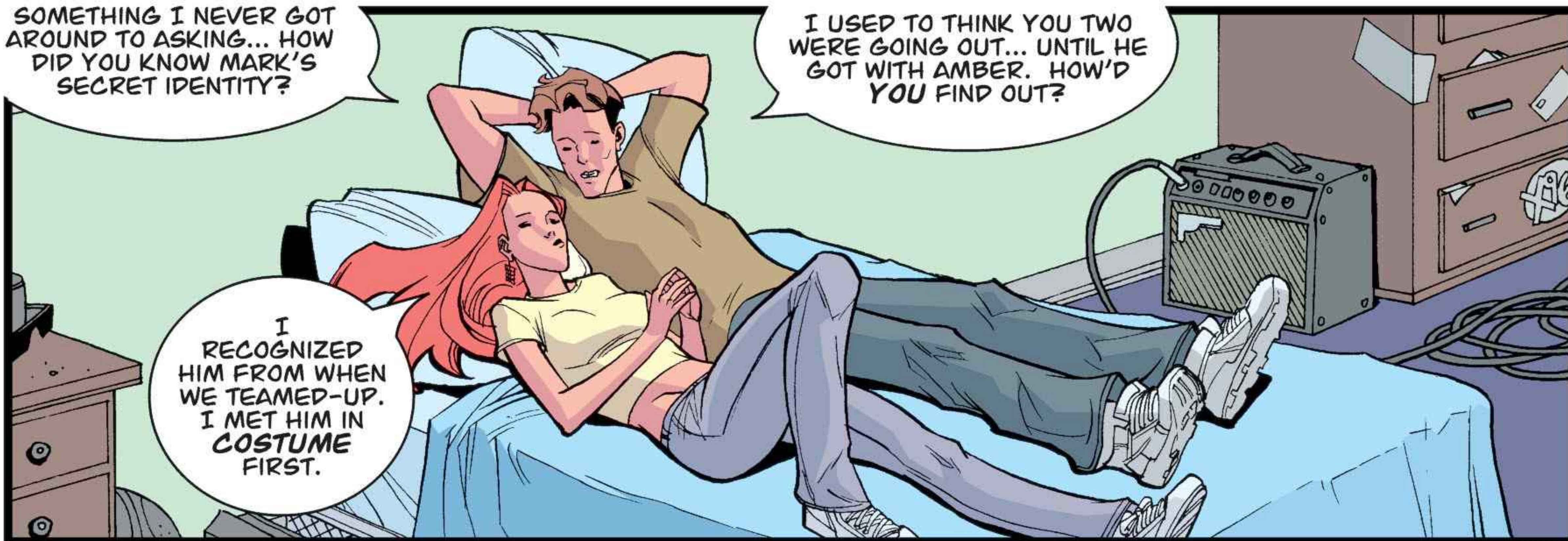












WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386.

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

PEN VINCIPALS

Welcome to issue 15, the one we like to call “The Big One” we’ve been building up to this issue for quite a while and I hope you guys and gals like the results. If not, stick with us, because I swear, long time readers are going to love where we’re going with this.

With all my work, and I gotta say this is a little embarrassing, I didn’t even notice all the awards we were nominated for this year. As I’ve mentioned before the book was nominated for Best New Series at the Eisners (we lost to Plastic Man) but on top of that... our own Ryan Ottley was nominated as “Best New Comer” for the Russ Manning award (which is part of the Eisners). Also... our own talented Colorist Supreme Bill Crabtree was nominated for a damn HARVEY Award for his coloring on this book. I don’t know if you’ve noticed or not but Bill’s coloring is tops. He really brings this book together for me, his contribution is monumental. I hate that in this industry we often see letterers and colorists overlooked but their talents really add to the over all project in ways that most of us don’t even realize. Anyway, back to the awards.

We all lost.

But really... the fact that this book got nominated for SO much has gotta count for something. So... YAY us. Congrats to Bill, Ryan and the whole book itself for getting nominations. Now only if I could get a nod for writing... sob.

Anyway, now that that’s out of the way... let’s dive into this mail.

Dear PENvinciPals~

Congratulations to the "Eisner Award". It couldn't go to a better comic than yours. There're a few critics who would unfortunately disagree with my vote, but I look forward to reading "Invincible" every month.

Something on the last column bugged me thou. I realize you will always have a critic no matter what you do, but one reader strongly stated the robot gives him willies, because he doesn't show facial expressions. I hope the guy was just kidding-because it's a freak'n robot! They don't have facial expressions! If they did, that would give ME the "willies":)

Anyways, I hope that the majority of the readers just respect your writing Robert, because knowing that you and your team now possess the Eisner Award, it's going to be hard to argue with that in yer hands. Congrats again.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Stryker

P.S. Keep up the cool artwork, Ryan. Don't YOU go anywhere!

I'll keep Ryan as long as humanly possible, don't worry about that. I also must point out that we were nominated for the Eisner... but we didn't win. Though, if more people just assume we won, I really wouldn't be able to complain about that.

Senor Kirkman:

I was re-reading Invincible #9 today (I love how I can read your book over and over again), and I had another good laugh over the scene with Rex Splode and Monster Girl. I may be in the minority here, but it would ROCK to see these two in a comedic miniseries and maybe even in their own monthly book (I can see it now: "The Adventures of Rex Splode and Monster Girl"). Yeah, sure, they got off on the wrong foot, but that's what makes it great. Kirkman, you may or may not know it yet, but you've laid the foundation for a great universe within the Image universe itself. I may not have liked the recent twists with Omni-Man (Hopefully he will redeem himself, he seemed quite sad at the end of issue 12), but you've still got a great book. Way better than that Ultimate Spider-Man stuff. Who really cares about all that sappy teen drama anyways? I'd love to see Mark beat the snot out of that goofy haired "Ultimate" Peter Parker. Keep it up and thanks for the great entertainment.

Rob Hustwick

For now you'll just have to live with seeing Monster Girl and Rex Splode in these pages. It'll be a while before we attempt any spin-offs from this series. I like being able to play with all the toys in one sandbox.

PenVinciPals,

Okay, they say “don’t be afraid.” that you should “do what you’re afraid of” because that’s the only way that you’ll get stronger. The only way that you’ll overcome that fear is by acknowledging it, then facing it head-on and doing your best. and your best usually works to beat it. and then, if not, at the very least, you made your attempt. you valiantly stood for what you believed in and cared about and were counted when it was important.

Okay. I_m getting a little dramatic, but I dread writing to letter cols for a number of reasons that, if we sat and had a meal over, would make for interesting conversation. but when reading INVINCIBLE and just absolutely loving it, I was met with the rare feeling of overwhelm that comes when I feel like something really, really good has come along, and it just may not be getting the attention and appreciation, that it so clearly deserves.

INVINCIBLE is so good. It's very, very, VERY good. I don_t want to get into my thesaurus, and I don't want to pontificate out a volunimous rant or praise, (all sans thesaurus), but I'm telling you people, INVINCIBLE is just really good comics.

I_m so glad that I found this comic the way I did: issue #1, fresh on the stand, interesting cover, image comics? Hmm, okay. a glance at the art was clean, concise, and met my favorite asthetic “less is more.”

The storytelling is simple, and BETTER for it. It packs a wallop, and never stops being FUN.

For me, this is what comics is all about.

I'm not gonna give the dissertation on the merits of comics, how movies take and how this is not that and comics is it_s own medium that needs to be understood and mastered and you know all I'm gonna say is this is IT. It's here. GREAT COMICS. fresh, fun, familiar, yet completely new. honest. Not jaded, not cynical, just open honest fun with great storytelling.

I'm always amazed at how much you INVINCIBLE guys deliver and in what simple ways -great writing and great storytelling. guys, you're just great.

As for the “turns” that the story is taking, it's all in keeping with the sweep and scope of the story. and, the way I see it, it's changing; evolving.

And change is good. It's the only constant in the universe.

As much as we all love comics, we tire of things that always go back to zero at the end of the day. we don_t, why should our stories?

So, I just read issue #12, and absolutely LOVED IT. and I've loved all the issues before. I want this story. I love the “Darth/ Luke” thing that was going between the two of them. I loved the big splash superhero shots and explosive moments.

And I loved how it was resolved in a “human” way. no cop out. but still, rather unexpected considering. It left me wanting (and dreading) for more.

I can_t wait to see what happens.

And that's the best thing I think I can say for this comic.

Thanks guys. seriously. thanks.

Dave Seligman

Don't beat around the bush, Dave... tell us how you REALLY feel.

PenVinciPals,

Wonderful. Absolutely wonderful. I rushed over to my local comic shop today to pick up Invincible #13, and was reading it before I made it back to the car. Robert, Ryan, Bill-- take a bow, this was an incredible read. This issue's pacing gave the reader a chance to step back and react to what had just happened the issue before.

And how! I love all the little in-jokes and running gags that keep popping up. Seeing more of Cecil and Donald from the pages of Brit was a treat. William and Eve?! I wish I could say I didn't see this coming, but it's being handled very, VERY well.

Questions:

- 1) Now that Benito has his own thing going with Bully Pulpit and Nate is... likewise busy, will their back-ups continue to grace the back of Invincible? If not, what would FILL that void?
- 2) What in the world is the government doing with Immortal?! You know, I should have seen this coming, seeing as how he's CALLED "The Immortal"...
- 3) You KNOW, if you don't feel like doing Science Dog, there's always that Chris Piers fella. I hear he's a pretty swell writer. How's about that?

Can't wait for #14!

Jeremy Dale
http://graphicpanda.com

Thanks for the compliments, Jeremy. For you kids out there reading this... you should head over to Jeremy's website and order you some copies of his book "TRUST." It's a swell looking book. Now for his questions:

- 1) Their back-up will still continue... but starting this issue, it's got some company. More on that later.**
- 2) You'll have to wait and see--oh hell... they were putting him back together after Nolan split him in half. The thing with Immortal is that as long as all his pieces are put back together he'll come back to life. He's like Humpty Dumpty... or something.**
- 3) No chance. When Science Dog appears... I'll be the fella writing him.**

Hey Lads;

Man oh man oh man oh MAN! This book blows my mind. Mark taking Omni-Man's spot as Earth's protector and now working with the government is a cool twist. It was nice to see our old buddy Allen again. Hopefully he will pop in from time to time, even when it's not an emergency. Kirkman, you've really started to craft an entire universe here and I like the way that bits and pieces of it are filling in and coming together so smoothly. It's pretty well detailed and will hopefully be even more enriched as the years go by (I Can't believe we're at #13 already!!! It'll be #100 before we know it).

Here are some more questions for you to ponder:

- 1) Will there be a huge war down the road with Earth and the Viltrumites? And if so, will we see lots of other Image characters take part in it? They are all in the same universe these days, right?
- 2) I can't help but wonder if maybe Cecil & Co. are using that headset to keep tabs on Mark. I wonder if they're pulling his strings and will be using him as a means to an end.
- 3) Is Cecil your clean-cut, well dressed answer to Nick Fury? His function and the business he does makes me think of our marvelous eye-patched friend.

Keep up the fantastic work and we'll all still be here when Invincible #100 comes out.

Rob Hustwick

Issue 100... that'll be the day. Can't wait for that, actually.

- 1) Not ALL the Image characters are in the same universe... but most of the superhero books are. You'll just have to wait and see on if and when a war with the Viltrumites will take place.**
- 2) Wouldn't YOU like to know.**
- 3) He's a government guy... with a face injury. There's no heli-carrier, though. He's not THAT much of an analogue.**

Dear Crew-

All I can really say is "THANK YOU!" "Invincible" is beyond awesome. Everyone I've ever showed it to has instantly become hooked. I get giddy driving home from the comic shop knowing it is in my pile for the week. Keep up the good work and you'll have a

fan for life!

And I have a different "thank you" to add. I know this might sound odd, but thank you for not bringing politics into play. I'm a conservative fellow, and sometimes I feel like I'm being bad mouthed in certain books, but I never get that from, well, anything I've read from Kirkman. (Though I haven't read everything, so perhaps I'm in for a surprise.) It's just refreshing to not feel like I have to be on the defensive. I like just reading a book that is fun, and so far, Kirkman hasn't let me down.

Cordially,
Mike Coughlin

Aren't politics boring and stuff? I just don't see the point in bringing any of that stuff into works of fiction that are supposed to be FUN and entertaining. It just doesn't interest me.

Some of the problems with Invincible...

The words balloons are like run-on sentences. I get the fact that you wanna have more dialogue cause there's less pages, but why even have less pages?? The back-up story in issue #13 I didn't even bother to read, as I usually don't (it had nothing to do with Invincible or any other super-hero I know of). The pin-ups are meaningless unless you actually wanna pin them up on your wall, and my walls are full already. So the back-up stories and pin-ups can go--they just take up space! And I guess this goes for Savage Dragon, too.

Just about everything else about Invincible is too good though. From the costume to the title design, costumes, supporting cast (powered or not); everything is really thought out, in-depth and entertaining. This book seems to be coming out on time now too, since it is a Monthly ongoing series but yet has only done 13 issues in something like two years? I think you missed out on some good dialogue in #13 re this unseeable room they went to; I would have had Invincible (and how long till people start calling him "vince" for short? You know, kinda like "Spidey"?) say something like this: Wow...a White Room! What, no Black Curtains?

Robert Kirkman is the best, but he shouldn't waste time on things like The Walking Dead and Brit; I've read Walking Dead, and it wasn't that bad, but it's black and white and not super-heroes so I wouldn't really wanna read it again. I think you've got a great formula with the Invincible format; next should be "Amazing"! Then "Incredible"...Mighty Man could have a series called "Mighty"...you could even do non-existing adjectives like "Untouchable", who would have intangibility. By the way, and totally off subject, don't you really miss the way the image logo on Image comics covers used to show, well, images of the heroes and stuff, sometimes different heroes each time? I know I do; it was better than what they have now, which is...nothing. Everybody seems to have questions in there letters to you so my question will be, will there be Invincible or even Savage Dragon spin-offs anytime this century? We were promised Freak Force volume 2 right? Also, and I wrote to Erik Larsen about this too, is that I wouldn't waste time on Shadow of Dracula or Waterloo Sunset mini-series, or even Small Gods monthly series, with just weird non-super hero fair; they never crack the top 100 or create any lasting series or following! Marvel Comics is far, far and away ahead of everyone else because all they do is super-heroes--cause that's what people really want. Maybe the only problem I have with the Invincible costume is the eye...things. Don't know what they are really and I sure don't know what to make of them. Kudos!

-Donald Shaw

Um... I'm going to skip the diversity thing, just understand that just because every book isn't FOR you doesn't mean they shouldn't be around. The Walking Dead for instance is currently selling a good bit MORE than this book, despite it's NON-superhero, black and white status. This industry needs less superhero books and more books about plumbers in my opinion.

Also, you mention this book has less pages? Less pages than what? This is a standard 22-page comic... like most everything else on the stands, including Marvel books.

Otherwise, thanks for the keen letter, and thanks for continuing to support the book.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,
I just wanted to say that over the past months I've been sucked into all the Kirkmania currently permeating the entire comics industry. 'Invincible' may just be the best superhero book on the stands right now, and that includes the stuff penned by Bendis. And 'The Walking Dead' would be the best book put out by Image, if only you didn't publish 'Invincible' there too. I'm totally psyched for your run on Captain America (on sale July through October), the new 2099 stuff, and let's not forgot the 'Magdalena/Vampirella' book from Top Cow.

As with many a fan letter, I have a few questions:

- 1) Who are you and where did you come from? Your personal site is nothing but a giant billboard. I know you had Funk-o-Tron and did Battle Pope before becoming Mr. Image, but a little more info

would be nice.

2) Just how many books can one guy write in one month?

3) In the letters for #11, you asked if Marvel would please call you, and that you had a Darkhawk story in mind. Was that for real or,like Wizard, do you enjoy bashing the sensational character find of early 90's Marvel?

4) You mentioned that you lost a bunch of e-mail and that's how some of the pin-ups got credited incorrectly. Would you like a Gmail account to avoid these types of snafus in the future? I have an extra invite that expires in about two weeks. You can save up to a gig worth of mail/attachments. If you want it, say the word.

Keep up the great work,
-Rob Levin

1) My website www.robertkirkman.com (or www.kirkmania.com if you prefer) will be up and running before the end of the year... I SWEAR. There will be a TON of stuff up there to look at, including some background info on me.

2) One guy, or ME? I know this one guy who can only write one book a month, but I can write considerably faster than him.

3) Actually that was for real. I pitched a Darkhawk book the same time I pitched my Sleepwalker book. I love all those '90s characters.

4) I'm good now. It was a problem with my outlook program. We're fine now. It was more human error than computer so it shouldn't happen again. I've learned my lesson. Thanks for the offer though.

Hi Robert, Ryan

Just wanted to drop a quick note to tell you guys how much I enjoyed Invincible. We are a fledgling new comic book publisher and I was signing for FCBD at a local store when I happened to crack open "Invincible" for the first time (issue 12). Loved it so much that I bought the graphic novel (vol. 2) from the second store I signed at that day. Unfortunately, that's the only volume they had in stock. Looking forward to picking up the other volumes in San Diego.

Anyway, great job and thanks for one of the most entertaining reads in years - wished I had discovered it earlier.

Jeff Amano
Beckett Comics
www.beckettcomics.com

Very cool, man. Glad you liked it. Folks, if you're not readying The Ballad of Sleeping Beauty from Beckett Comics, you're missing out. The first issue was FREE. That Mike Hawthorne guy sure can draw. Thanks for dropping us a line Jeff.

Penvincible,

I have never written to a comic book before. I've never felt the need to but I just want to say this book is one of the best books on the market today. I bought the first issue on a whim and I've been reading ever since. In my opinion the book started slow but MAN has it picked up speed!! I have a few questions.

1) Is Mark going to start to develop a rouges gallery. It seems like a lot of the villains he fights are pretty generic. Are any going to be recurring?

2) Nolan said that due to his Viltrimite genes being so strong Mark is almost a full Viltrimite and will be nearly as strong or stronger than he is. Now is it possible that Nolan could be mistaken and due to Mark's hybrid nature he could develop powers even Viltrimites don't have? I mean if he's going to fight a planet of Viltrimites eventually he's going to need some kind of edge.

Well thanks for a great reading experience. I've already gotten friends hooked on the book and I'm with you for the long haul. Two words for you: Invincible Cartoon!!

Have a great one!

Licardo.

1) Shut up. You'll be seeing all kinds of villains reoccurring... DAMMIT. What about the Mauler Twins... those guys are in like... EVERY issue. There will be more villains coming soon... cooler villains. I've spent the first 20 issues building up Mark, I'll spend the next 20 building up his villains and giving him a cool rogues gallery.

2) I don't think he'll grow one of the freaky mustaches because of his human genes. Does that count as an edge? Or is that more of a disadvantage.

I'm not the one keeping a cartoon from happening! I'd LOVE to see one.

Ok I got the first Invincible trade back in January with some money I had left over from Christmas on the recommendation of a friend, well needless to say I was hooked right away!! I fell head over heels in love with the characters, writing, art, colors, damn near everything about this book was perfect, the exception being my ability to find any other issues!! I live in a small as town that has a crappy little newsstand that sells comics so it's kinda hard to get stuff some-times. Well this past week I was able to finally get the second trade and issues 9-13, and hot damn, this book just got even better! I must say that Invincible is for sure one of my all time favorite comics now and Robert Kirkman is quickly becoming one of my favorite writers as well. Cory and Ryan are both kickass artists as well making Invincible one of if not the best looking comics to come out in a long time!! Just wanted to say thanks for putting out a damn fine comicbook!! Keep up the good work!!

P.S. I also picked up the first trade for The Walking Dead and issue #7 as well, another awesome piece of work from Mr Kirkman!!

Another convert. Life is good.

Kirkman and co.,

Invincible #13 AND the Image Comics Summer Special. 30 solid pages of Invincible, and it's still not enough. I feel like I've been waiting for #15 for ages--that cover looks hilarious--and I'm still waiting on #14! I just wanted to mention the growing number of people praising Ryan's art; it's not so much that he's a better artist than Cory, because his stuff is spot-on. I think it's just that when the announcement came that Cory would be leaving the book, a lot of people got worried that the art was going to slip. When people actually saw Ryan's work they were relieved, but people also want to believe that things are always getting better with this title, not staying the same (or, God forbid), heading down the path to suck. Ryan's art is so good, it makes believing things are constantly getting better all the easier.

Now, some questions:

1-) Is Robot evil? I mean, sometimes, the things he says combined with that look on his face (the one he always has) just makes me think he's a few bolts short.

2-) Any plans to bring back the Furnace? I think he's been my favorite bit-villain so far.

3-) What are the odds of Invincible spin-offs, like a New Guardians of the Globe mini-series? Or a Science Dog one-shot? (I won't leave you alone about that.)

4-) Who'd win in a fight, you or Bendis?

David Cutler
Antigonish, NS, Canada

1) If he WAS evil... do you think I'd reveal that in a letters column?

2) None of them are "bit-villains" you'll see and learn more of them ALL as time goes on... dammit!

3) Not good right now. I'm too busy and love the characters too much to pass them off. And y'know... who KNOWS how they would sell.

4) Have you SEEN Bendis? Granted, it's a lot of man packed into a little package... but Bendis is a small man. I do fight like a girl though... even though I'm a giant compared to Bendis... so it's a toss up.

And that's a wrap, folks. Thanks so much for stopping by.

In the back of this book you'll find another swell back-up by Benito Cereno and Nate Bellegarde. This one's a three pager too!

ALSO in the back... we've got a new addition to the book, "4 SEATS LEFT" by Jason Latour. You may remember Jason's name from his pin-up in issue 6, or if you're REALLY old you may remember his name from "Immigrant Song" the back up he drew for Joe Casey in the back of Battle Pope: Wrath of God issues 1-3. Jason has been doing 4 seats left for years at his website www.4seatsleft.com and I've always enjoyed the hell out of it. I hope you guys get a kick out of it!

See you all next month!

-Robert Kirkman

This month's pin-ups by:
1. Jonboy Meyers and Sean Galloway
2. Jesse Mynoz





JESSE
MUNOZ
2004
darkcompany
.com

INVINCIBLE

EISNER AWARD NOMINEE
FOR BEST NEW SERIES!



ISSUE 16
SEPTEMBER
2004

image

INVINCIBLE is ™ and © Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, 2003. All Rights Reserved.